

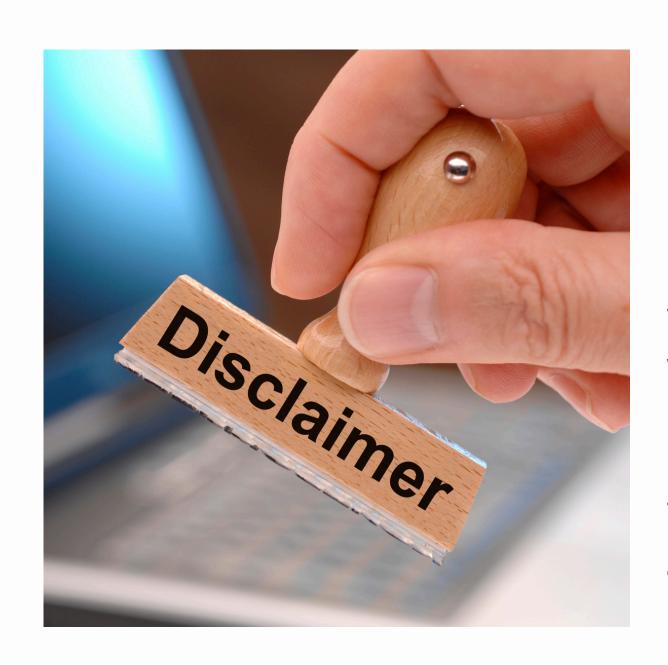
# THE DO'S & DON'TS OF BUILDING AN ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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## OBJECTIVES:

- Provide participants with what should or shouldn't be listed on a calendar.
- Provide participants with alternative

  names to activity programs to be mindful
  of certified activities or create interest.
- Provide participants with different ways to build their own calendar.



### DISCLAIMER

I am not an expert in Calendar Making but I have over 24 years of experience in making them. I've learned some of what I'm going to share from others, doing research and learning from mistakes that I have made over the years.

There are many ways to build a calendar and I can't talk about them all but I do want to share a few options that I have or had at my facility.

### CALENDARS FOR WHO?

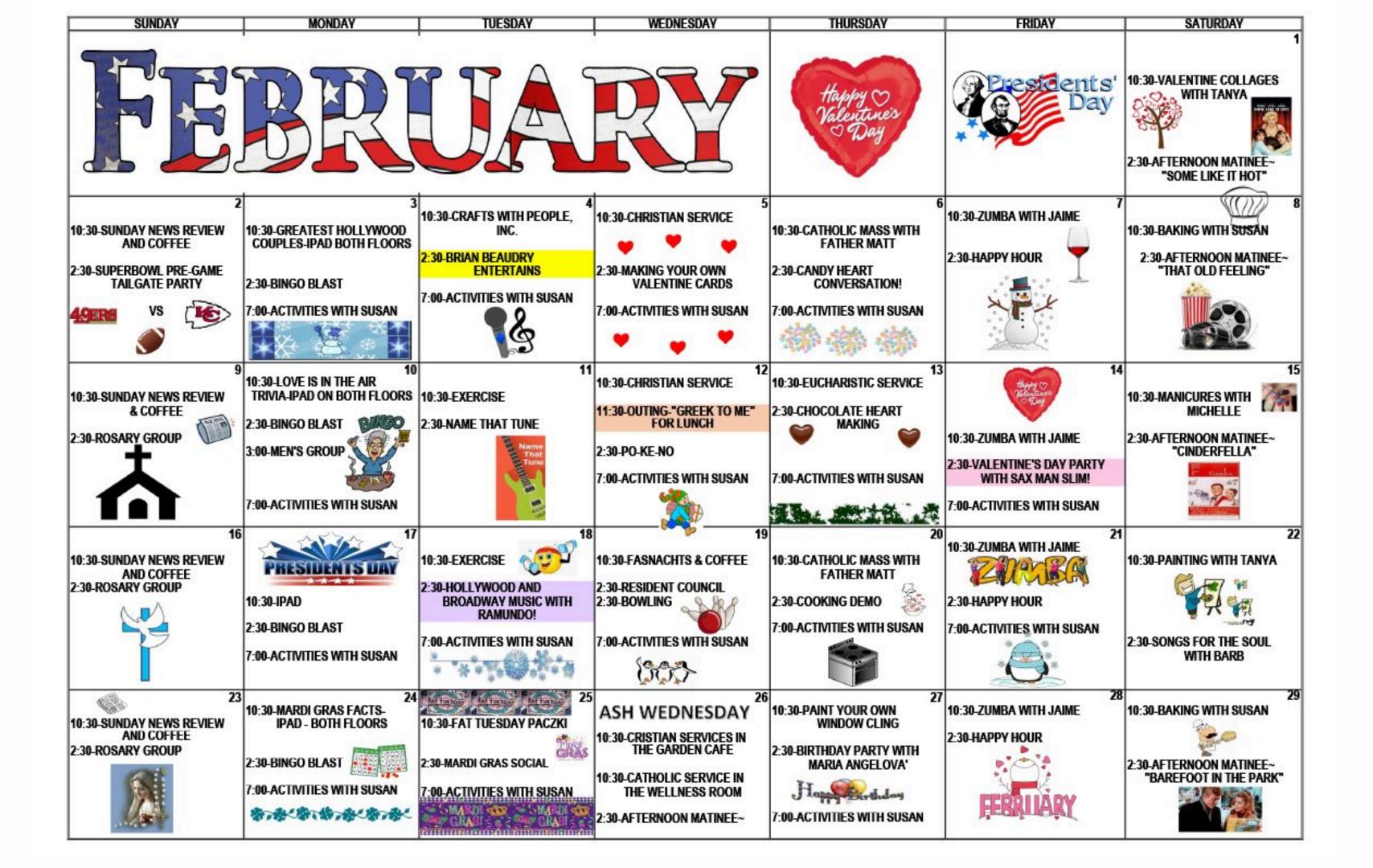


People that live in...

- 1 Independent Living Facilities
- 2 Assisted Living Facilities (RCAC/CBRF)
- 3 Long Term Care Facilities
- 4 Rehab Facilities
- 5 Memory Care Facilities
- 6 Adult Day Services

Questions: How many of you have to create multiple calendars at your facility? Does every calendar look the exact same? Should every calendar look the same?





## Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Church Services 10:00 Church Outing Cinema Classics 2:00, 4:00 & 7:45 1:00 Activity Outing 7:45 Honoring traditions— religion discussion	2 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:00 Blood Pressure Screening 1:00 Sittercise 12:30 Whee with Wii 2:00 Pan Club 7:00 Poker Night 7:45 Healthy Aging Seminar	3 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 10:00 Cultures of The World Class 10:30 Fitness Matters 11:30 Non-fiction Writers Workshop 11:30 Activity Forum 2:00 Water Aerobics 2:00 Bridge Club 5:00 Music Appreciation Class	4 9:30 - 11:00 Local Shopping 11:00 Water Aerobics 11:00 Computer Class 1:00 Extended Mall Trip 2:00 Red Hat Society Meeting 7:30 Mahjong	5 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:15 Walking Club 10:30 Fitness Matters 11:30 Current Events Discussion 1:00 Cards & Poker 4:30 Musical Interlude 5:00 Scrabble - Card Rm	6 9:00 - 10:30 Local Shopping 10:00 Heart Health 11:30 Art History Appreciation Class 2:00 Bridge/Mahjong 3:00 Poolside Tai Chi 7:45 Friday Night Service 7:45 Cash Bingo	7 7:00 Sunrise Tai Chi 9:30 Temple Outing 1:00 Activity Outing 1:30 Matinee Movies 2:00 Cards & Games 3:00 Book Club 8:00 Showtime!
8 10:00 Church Services 10:00 Church Outing 1:00 E-mailing 101 Class 1:00 Activity Outing 1:30 Mixed Bridge & Cards 3:00 Billiards	9 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:00 Blood Pressure Screening 11:00 Floral Demo 1:00 Sittercise 2:00 Pan Club 5:00 Conversational Spanish Class 7:00 Poker Game	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:30 Watercolor Painting Workshop 10:30 Fitness Matters 2:00 Water Aerobics 2:00 Bridge Club 7:45 Cinema Feature 7:45 Bingo	11 9:30 - 11:00 Local Shopping 11:00 Water Aerobics 11:00 Computer Class 12:30 Matinee 1:00 Extended Mall Trip 2:00 Veteran's Club Mtg. 3:00 Billiards 5:00 Farmer's Market Outing	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:15 Walking Club 10:30 Fitness Matters 11:30 Chef Chat 2:30 Health Lecture 3:00 Town Hall 4:30 Musical Interlude	13 9:00 - 10:30 Local Shopping 11:00 Non-Fiction Writers Workshop 2:00 Bridge/Mahjong 5:00 Musical Interlude 4:30 Resident Social 7:45 Friday Night Service	7:00 Sunrise Tai Chi 9:30 Temple Outing 1:00 Activity Outing 1:30 Matinee Movies 2:00 Cards & Games 3:00 Book Club 8:00 Showtime!
15 10:00 Church Services 10:00 Church Outing Cinema Classics 2:00, 4:00 & 7:45 1:00 Activity Outing 7:45 Tango First Century at Performing Arts Center	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:00 Blood Pressure Screening 1:00 Sittercise 2:00 Flower Craft 2:00 Pan Club 7:00 Poker Game 7:45 Pop Culture Current Events Class	17 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 10:30 Fitness Matters 12:00 Birthday Luncheon 2:00 Water Aerobics 2:00 Bridge Club 5:00 Music Appreciation 7:45 Cinema Feature	18 9:30 - 11:00 Local Shopping 11:00 Water Aerobics 11:00 Computer Class 1:00 Library Outing 1:00 Extended Mall Trip 5:00 Farmer's Market Outing 6:45 Twilight Soiree	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:15 Walking Club 10:30 Fitness Matters 11:30 Matinee 1:30 Talent Show Rehearsal 4:30 Musical Interlude 7:45 Current Events	20 9:00 - 10:30 Local Shopping 2:00 Bridge/Mahjong 3:00 Billiards 5:00 Wine, Wisdom and Wit Happy Hour 7:45 Friday Night Service 7:45 Cash Bingo	21 7:00 Sunrise Tai Chi 9:30 Temple Outing 1:30 Matinee Movies 1:00 Activity Outing 2:00 Cards & Games 3:00 Book Club 6:00 Winter Sake Tasting Outing 8:00 Showtime!
22 10:00 Church Services 10:00 Church Outing 1:00 Activity Outing 3:00 Billiards 4:00 Afternoon Tea 5:00 Scrabble - Card Rm	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:00 Blood Pressure Screening 11:00 E-mailing 101 Class 1:00 Sittercise 2:00 Pan Club 2:30 Whee with Wii 7:00 Poker Night	24 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 10:30 Fitness Matters 1:00 Outing to Mall 2:00 Water Aerobics 3:00 2010 Theater Forum 5:00 Music Appreciation 7:45 Cinema Feature	25 9:30 - 11:00 Local Shopping 10:00 Hospital Aux. Mtg. 11:00 Water Aerobics 11:00 Computer Class 12:30 Bridge/Mahjong 5:00 Farmer's Market Outing 7:45 Outing to Art Gallery	26 9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:30 IntegraCare Walking Club 10:30 Fitness Matters 11:30 Cards & Poker 1:30 Talent Show Rehearsal 4:30 Musical Interlude	27 9:00 - 10:30 Local Shopping 11:00 E-mailing 101 Class 2:00 Bridge/Mahjong 5:00 Musical Interlude 4:30 Resident Social 7:45 Friday Night Service	7:00 Sunrise Tai Chi 9:30 Temple Outing 1:00 Activity Outing 1:30 Matinee Movies 2:00 Cards & Games 2:00 Kosher Tour 3:00 Book Club 8:00 Showtime!
29 10:00 Church Services 10:00 Church Outing 1:00 Activity Outing 1:30 Mixed Bridge & Cards Cinema Classics 2:00, 4:00 & 7:45 3:00 Billiards 5:00 Scrabble - Card Rm	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 9:00 Blood Pressure Screening 11:00 Comparison of the News Media Class 1:00 Sittercise 2:00 Pan Club 2:30 Whee with Wii 7:00 Poker Night	9:00 - 3:00 Doctors Appt. 10:30 Fitness Matters 1:00 Outing to Mall 2:00 Water Aerobics 5:00 Tribute to Gershwin 7:45 Improv	Book of the Month "NOT ME: A NOVEL" By Michael Lavigne	Monday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Physicians, Dentists and Health Care Providers Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Physicians, Dentists and Health Care Providers 1:00 p.m. – Mall	TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE Wednesday 9:30 a.m 11:00 a.m Local Shopping 1:00 p.m Extended Mall Trip Thursday 9:00 a.m 3:00 p.m Physicians, Dentists and Health Care Providers	Friday 9:00 a.m 10:30 a.m Local Shopping 1:00 p.m Activity Outing Saturday 9:30 a.m Temple 1:00 p.m Activity Outing Sunday 10:00 a.m Church 1:00 p.m Activity Outing

(Sample Activity Calendar)

## HOW MANY ACTIVITIES NEED TO BE ON THE CALENDAR EVERY DAY?

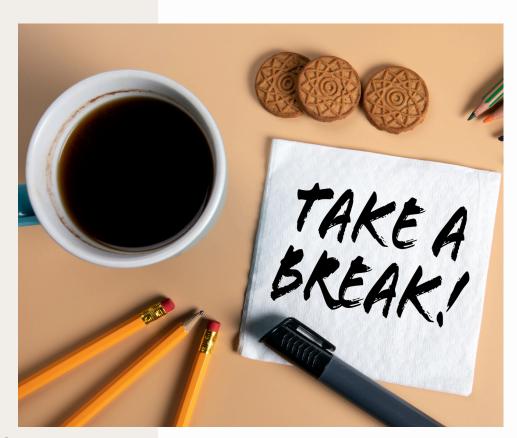
This all depends on the people you are working with and how many staff to run programs.

- Do residents want every single activity on the calendar?
- Do residents only want special events and repeated activities on the calendar?
- Is posting every activity on the calendar too busy for some residents to read and comprehend?
- Do you post programming for various units on one calendar using multiple staff?



#### KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- The more programs on the calendar will make the font size smaller and smaller - will every resident be able to read it?
- If you schedule an activity every 30 minutes and the current group is having fun and want to keep going, what do you do?
- Do we allow residents the opportunity to rest throughout the day?
- Do we allow staff to take adequate breaks and meals, and do their required paperwork each day?
- Is the calendar person-centered? Are we doing what the residents want? NOT WHAT OUR COMPANIES WANT!



## TO PUT TIMES ON THE CALENDAR OR NOT?

Again, this depends on your population and what their abilities are and what they want.

For most people, we like to know when things start, however, people with dementia may not know how to tell time any longer and the times on the calendar don't mean anything to them.



#### PROS AND CONS OF:

#### **NO TIME**

#### Pros:

- Can start when residents are ready.
- Residents w/Dementia do not have to worry about being late or early and can help w/sundowning.

#### Cons:

 May be difficult to keep staff on track - accounted for

#### **START TIME**

#### Pros:

- Tells staff and residents when a program is going to start and be where they need to be.
- Stays in current reality for alert & oriented people.

#### Cons:

- If staff get a late start, could upset some people.
- If groups are going well, could potentially run over another group on the calendar.

#### **START TIME & END TIME**

#### Pros:

 Gives staff and residents a better understanding of length of program.

#### Cons:

- If staff start late, they will run late.
- If groups going well, need to stop to start another group or go to next location.

## DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO HAVE A PHYSICAL PAPER CALENDAR?



Regulations do state that everyone should have access to a daily schedule.

- Is there is a posted calendar in a common area that can be accessed by residents?
- Do you have a digital calendar on TV or screens throughout the building?

## THE ANSWER IS NO!!!



If you answered "YES" to those questions, you do not need to hand out to everyone.

#### OPTIONS FOR CALENDARS

Most people choose to do a month calendar - is that best?

• There may be a need to use more than one or adapted based on population. (I recommend a program that allows you to create all three kinds of calendars)



#### Here are some options and ideas:

#### **DAILY**

The Daily Schedule/Calendar would be great to post in common areas and list all the events planned for the day.

May be on a white board, so changes can be easily made as the day goes on.

#### **WEEKLY**

The Weekly Schedule/Calendar is great to hand out to people who have difficulty with vision - make the print larger.

Also good for people who may be overwhelmed with a monthly calendar - way too much on it.

#### **MONTHLY**

Rather than posting all activities on a monthly calendar, only post special events or groups that repeat like Church or Bingo, etc.

Monthly calendars are good for staff and planning of activities.

## Monday, August 25, 2025

9:30 Coffee & Current Events

10:30 Hymn Sing

1:30 Noodle Ball

2:30 Categories

3:30 Down Memory Lane

### \*SAMPLE\* Weekly Activity Program - Dementia Care

#### 4th April 2021 - 10th April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am	9am	9am	9am	9am	9am	9am
Devotion	Outdoor Walk	Outdoor Walk	Outdoor Walk	Outdoor Walk	Outdoor Walk	Outdoor Walk
11am	10am	10am	10am	10am	10am	10am
Sing-along	Folding Clothes	Washing Up Activity	Picture Bingo	Church service	Hairdresser	Golden Girls (tv)
12am	11am	11am	11am	11am	11am	11am
Songs of Praise (TV)	Nursery Rhymes	Balloon Games	Exercise to music	Bubble Blowing	Matching Games	Sing-along
3pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm
High Tea	Sensory Box	International music	Hand Massage	Sort by Colours	Musical Bingo	Jewellery / tool box tidying
6pm	2pm	2pm	2pm	2pm	2pm	300000
Movie & Popcorn	Doll Therapy	Pet Therapy with visiting dog	Matching Games	Cut-out pictures for scrapbook	Ball Games	2pm Watering plants
	4pm		3pm		6pm	
	Music with LPs		Beauty Parlour	2pm Concert on TV: 'Andre Rieu'	Happy Hour	4pm Bowling Game
CINEMA			6		(3)	111



#### DAILY ACTIVITIES

Monday

10:30- CNA Music Activity #3

4:00- Sing Along- Songs of Faith 6:15- Piano Music With Maya

2:30- Sit & Be Fit! March 19, 2018

3:30- Trivia: Funny Bones Don't Get Arthritis

Tuesday

2018

10:30- CNA Music Activity #4 11:00- Paris The Poodle

2:30- Guitar Music With Bill Connet

March 20,

1:00- West Des Moines Students Visit

3:30- Trivia: Humorama

4:00- Sing Along- Old Time Favorites

6:30- Wheel of Fortune

Wednesday

March 21,

2018

10:30- CNA Music Activity #5 2:30- Sit & Be Fit!

4:00- Happy Hour

3:30- Trivia: Name that Memory

6:15- Ashworth Road Church Visit

Thursday

2018

BARBER AND BEAUTY SHOP DAY!

March 22,

10:30- CNA Music Activity #6 2:30-Spa Day

4:00- Sing Along- Elder Song Vol 1 6:30- Wheel of Fortune

3:30- Trivia: 1940s

LINK ASSOCIATES: POPCORN HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVID H. AND BILL M.!

March 23, 2018

Friday

4:00- Sing Along- Elder Song Vol 2 10:30- CNA Music Activity #7

6:30- Wheel of Fortune

3:30- Trivia: Name 10

Saturday

EASTER EGG HUNT @ 10:30!

10:30- CNA Music Activity #1

6:30- Wheel of Fortune 3:30- Trivia: PastTimes Complete the Phrase 7:00- Lawrence Welk Show (Ch. 11)

4:00- Sing Along- Elder Song Vol 3

Sunday

March 24,

2018

10:30- CNA Music Activity #2

4:00- Sing Along- Elder Song Vol 4

March 25, 2018

2:30- Nail Care Hour

3:30- Trivia: Prayer Group And Devotions



## JUNE ~ 2011





	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Summer	8:00~ 10:00  Coffee and Conversation 10:00 ~ 10:45  Opening and Exercise 1:00 ~ 1:45  Relaxation 3:00 ~ Snack	1 11:00 History through the Decades 2:00 Senior Prom	2 11:00 Beading Golf 2:00 Hunterdon Senior Chorus	3 11:00 Lawn darts 2:00 Music by Jack McDade
6	11:00 Bocce ball Basket Workshop 2:00 Visit from Chuck	7 11:00 Scattergories 2:00 Fun with Dawn	8 11:00 Concentration 2:00 Fun with Diane	9 11:00 Check Writing Discussion 2:00 Visit from Chuck	10 11:00 Current Events Craft 2:00 Pieces of 8
13	11:00 Reptiles Alive Ultimate Frisbee 2:00 Pokeno	14 11:00 Catch Ten 2:00 Italian Ice Taste Test	Heritage Day ~ France	16 11:00  Bocce Ball 2:00  Bingo and Brownies with Pat	17 11:00  Men's Club  Ladies Club  2:00  Father Day Celebration
20	11:00 Tic Tac Math 2:00 Visit from Chuck	21 11:00 Twister Trivia 2:00 Entertainment by Kris	22 11:00 Science Cards 2:00 Drumming Circle	23 11:00 Thinking Skills Wood Working 2:00 Bowling Tournament	24 11:00 Gardening Cards 2:00 Fun with Dawn
27	11:00 Men's Club Ladies Club 2:00 Fun with Joanne	28 Luau Party	29 Emany ~	Health Corner with	

## WHAT SHOULD BE ON THE CALENDAR & APPROPRIATELY NAMED?

#### **Ending in Therapy**

Aromatherapy, Music Therapy, Art Therapy, Pet Therapy-DO NOT PUT THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR UNLESS THEY ARE LED BY A PROFESSIONAL OR CERTIFIED PERSON IN THAT THERAPY. (Music Therapy w/Becky Frize, MT-BC)
You may use: Essential Oils, Music Memories, Art Design/Painting Class, Pet Visits, etc.

#### **Church Services**

If a Church Service is open to ALL Residents to attend, you may put on the calendar. If it is a closed service, do not put on the calendar - let the residents know directly when they meet.

#### **Room Visits**

Ideally, Room Visits or 1:1s should not be on your calendar, however, many do add to show that staff are with the residents rather than sitting around somewhere.

Names to use instead of Room Visits: Travel Cart, Strolling Minstrel, Getting to Know You, etc.



#### **Movies/TV Shows**

Unless staff is present during a movie or TV show to keep residents interactive, they should not be on the calendar. Activities on the calendar are meant to be engaging. It is ok to list TV shows, times & channels or movies in a common area for people to watch together.

#### **Specialty Programs Trademarked**

Memories in the Making, Time Slips, Music & Memory, etc. Like the therapy programs, do not use these on your calendars unless you or the leader is trained in these programs. They are all trademarked programs that train others to use their methods.

You may use: Art & Conversation, Story Telling/Writing, Music Listening, etc. if you're doing something similar.

## WHAT SHOULD BE ON THE CALENDAR & APPROPRIATELY NAMED?

#### **Groups w/Volunteers**

Volunteers are welcome to run small groups, if they have been trained properly or have experience. An example of a volunteer led group; Crochet Class w/Nancy.

\*\*Only add to the calendar if you know they will be there, whether a one-time program or repeated. Do not add, if they do not consistently show up.

#### **Resident Led Groups**

Resident led activities are like Volunteer Led. If a group of residents want to meet weekly and allow anyone to join them, you can add to the calendar. **Card Games w/Sue.** If only the same 3-4 residents want their own Card Club - then do not put on the calendar.

#### **Other Staff Led**

If your facility expects other staff to lead small groups, you may put them on the calendar: **Exercise w/RA's/ CNAs.** If you know they are not being done (say on weekends) be cautious of adding to calendar - you could get dinged for residents wanting to attend and not being done.



#### **Independent Activities**

Independent activities are just that - Independent. They do not need to be on the activity calendar for all to see. Now, you can post a blurb about what is available to use: Activity Packets, Cards, Board Games, etc. located in dining room/sunroom for independent use.

#### Others??

Is there something you aren't sure of that should or shouldn't be on the calendar?

I always include: Name, Address & Phone of Facility, Birthdays, Special Theme Days/Holidays, and ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON RESIDENTS' INTERESTS AND NEEDS.



#### Other Creative Calendar Ideas:

- Exercise Groups: Moving to Music, Chair Dancing, Chair Yoga, Toned-Up Tuesday, Sit & Stretch, Pole Dancing, etc. Hearing the word "exercise" may turn some people off to attending. Make it fun!!!
- For most LTC, Rehab, AL, IL Offer a variety of programs and creative names are generally OK. Offer Educational Programs, Community Programs, Travel Programs, etc. Let them help you plan the calendar.
- For Dementia Care/Memory Care Offer a variety of programs but keep the titles familiar. You may repeat each week or even day if it benefits the residents.
- FOR ALL USE THE 7 WELLNESS DOMAINS: Physical, Social, Intellectual, Emotional, Spiritual, Occupational, Environmental
- It is OK to use pictures on your calendar but keep them simple. Do not cover the words and you do not need to add pictures to every square.
   To people with Dementia, it is overwhelming and makes it more difficult to read the actual programs. On the other hand, if someone can no longer read, using images familiar to them to represent activities may work but limit how many on a day.

Question



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