



ELDERCARE RESOURCE SERVICES



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"HELPING YOU HELP YOUR LOVED ONES"

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A FREE PUBLICATION ON ELDER ISSUES

THE MANY FACETS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Everyone forgets things now and again, becomes moody, and makes poor decisions. A person with the progressive Alzheimer's disease is a bit out of the ordinary.

Alzheimer's disease affects the parietal lobe. A soup bowl may look like a pot or a person may become lost in familiar settings.

The hippocampus (right or left side of the brain) takes our immediate thoughts and puts them in memory. An individual with Alzheimer's

disease cannot retain new memories. Short term memory and learning something new become impossible. It becomes difficult to judge things like time and place.

The frontal lobe carries out purposeful behaviors and reasoning. When Alzheimer's strikes the frontal lobe, it becomes impossible to balance a checkbook or plan complicated activities. When there is loss in processing reasoning is severely impaired.

The amygdale, near the hippocampus, affects the ability to

regulate emotions such as fear and anger. A person with Alzheimer's may present with mood changes. This can be exhibited by paranoia, emotional outbursts, unprovoked hostility, or agitation.

The temporal lobe plays a key role in memory and language. When affected there is difficulty naming such objects as a watch, etc.

Source: pbs: the forgetting " A Portrait of Alzheimer's" Jan 2004
January 2004

ABOUT US:

ELDERCARE RESOURCE SERVICES IS A COMPANY THAT ASSISTS FAMILIES IN MAKING THE BEST DECISIONS FOR THEIR ELDERLY RELATIVE.

LINDA SULLIVAN, R.N. AND DEBBIE GITNER, LCSW ARE BOTH PROFESSIONAL GERIATRIC CARE MANAGERS.

OUR SERVICES CAN OFFER THE EXPERTISE AND ADVICE TO ALLOW YOUR LOVED ONE TO LIVE WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE AND DIGNITY.

WE CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONE.

RESIDENT RIGHTS IN THE NURSING HOME

Nursing home residents have certain protections under the law.

Respect: To have the right to be treated with dignity and respect all of the time.

Privacy: You have the

right to privacy, and to keep and your personal belongings and property as long as it doesn't interfere with the rights, health, or safety or others. All facilities must provide a space for personal belongings.

Medical Care: You have the right to be informed about your medical condition, medications, and to see a personal physician. Also there is a right to refuse medications and treatments.



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## **ALZHEIMER'S SAFETY TIPS FOR HOME**

Those with Alzheimer's Disease are unable to take care of themselves. The caregiver must continue to adapt the environment to keep their relative safe.

One must think about prevention. It is important to try to predict what may happen. Accidents can happen so it is important to check the safety of the home.

Sometimes the home environment needs to be changed because your loved one cannot change their behaviors. If someone has poor vision and drags their feet, then

pick up any scatter rugs. Scatter rugs put someone at risk of a fall.

Some people with Alzheimer's disease experience changes in their ability to interpret what they see. Mark the edges of steps with brightly colored strips of tape to outline the elevation.

A person with Alzheimer's Disease needs to be evaluated by a physician for any changes that may be correctable such as new glasses, dentures, hearing aids, or other treatments.

If one is able to minimize the danger, then independence is maximized. This

benefits the person with Alzheimer's disease as well as the caregiver.

Alzheimer's disease can be a very stressful time for everyone. It is important to minimize the stress.

Linda Sullivan and Debbie Gitner, from **ElderCare Resource Services**, are able to complete a safety evaluation in the home to help keep your relative safe. After our evaluation we will discuss our results and will then send out a written report with recommendations. We will also be available for follow up.

'Home Safety for People with Alzheimer's Disease'