



ACTIVITY BOOK

For caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia

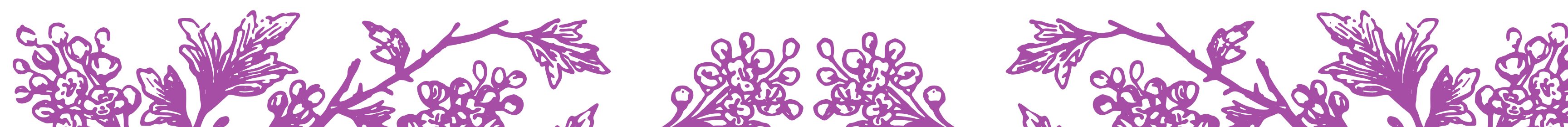


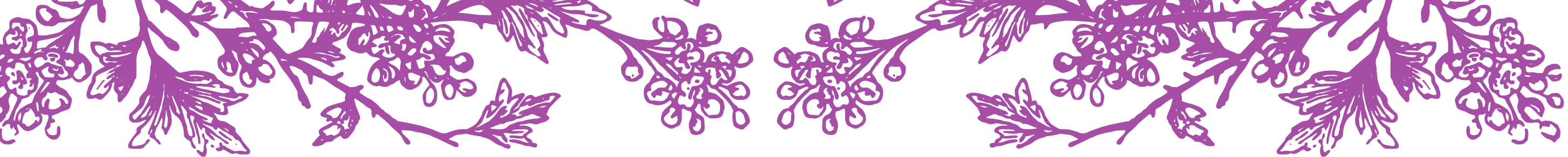
Created by Occupational Therapy Students



McGill

School of
Physical and
Occupational Therapy





Our team became introduced to the topic of dementia through our Occupational Therapy (OT) coursework. The goal was to create a project that would be relevant and useful during the COVID-19 pandemic. After discussions with the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning, we learned that their Dementia Education Program workshops were temporarily stopped and they were looking to develop resources for caregivers of individuals with dementia. We looked into what resources were available online and found that there was a focus on safety and daily care, such as bathing and eating, but very little information about leisure. As OTs, leisure is a very important category. We enable clients to do meaningful activities, which includes hobbies and other fun pastimes with family and friends. This led us to the idea of an activity book that will hopefully provide inspiration for individuals with dementia and their loved ones as well as outline how to adjust each activity to make it successful.

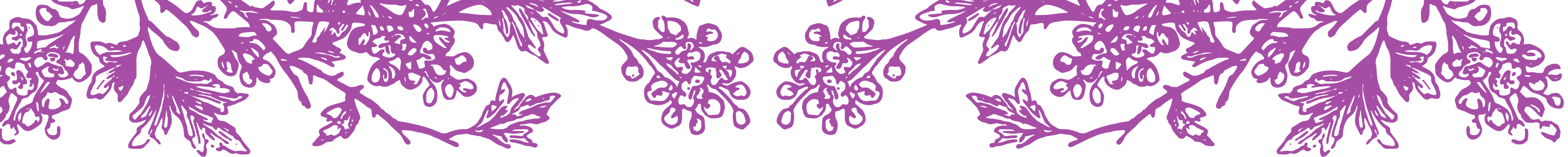
Created by N. Drinkwater, C. MacDonald, E. Vadot,
M. MacDougall & M.E. Bolduc, 2020.

With the assistance of K. Falcicchio.

Second Edition, November 2023

If you have questions, comments or suggestions,
please contact us by email at dementia@mcgill.ca.





Introduction

WHY ACTIVITIES ARE IMPORTANT:

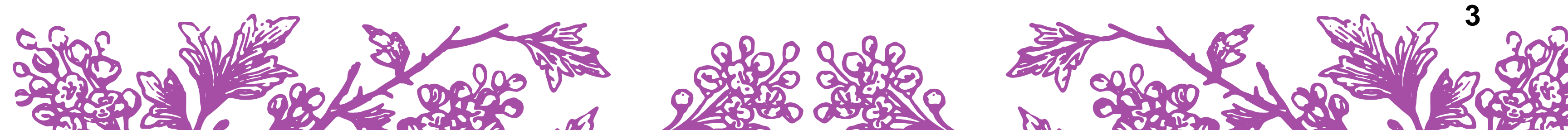
Engaging in meaningful activities is important for individuals of all ages. For individuals with dementia, it is important for them to continue engaging in the activities that they enjoy by making suitable adaptations. Aligning activities with a person's interests and abilities will contribute to their sense of self, promote creativity and add to their quality of life.

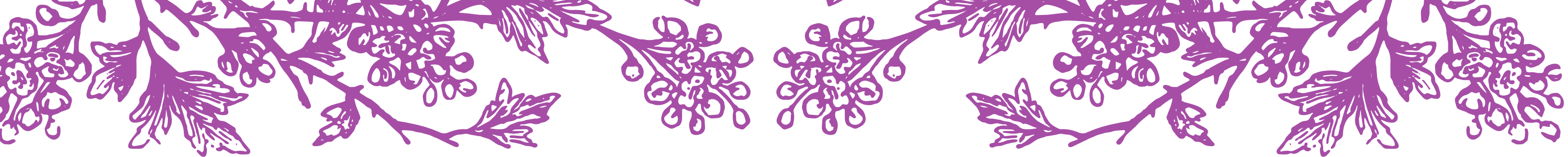
USING THIS BOOK:

In the following book, we have proposed 40+ activities that you and your loved one can engage in and enjoy together. For each activity, the target and steps, materials required and ways to adapt it to the individual's abilities are described. As a caregiver, you should do these activities with your loved one as it will be important to support them, ensuring they are safe.

Consider the time of day that you chose to engage in each activity as you want to select a time when your loved one is most alert. These activities all vary in length, and can be done in steps over multiple days. If needed, ensure your loved one is wearing their glasses and hearing aids before you start. Take note that even just having your loved one present can promote well-being. We hope these activities bring you joy!

NOTE: In this book, the term "loved one" refers to the individual living with dementia, acknowledging that this person may be a family member, friend or a client that is being cared for by you.

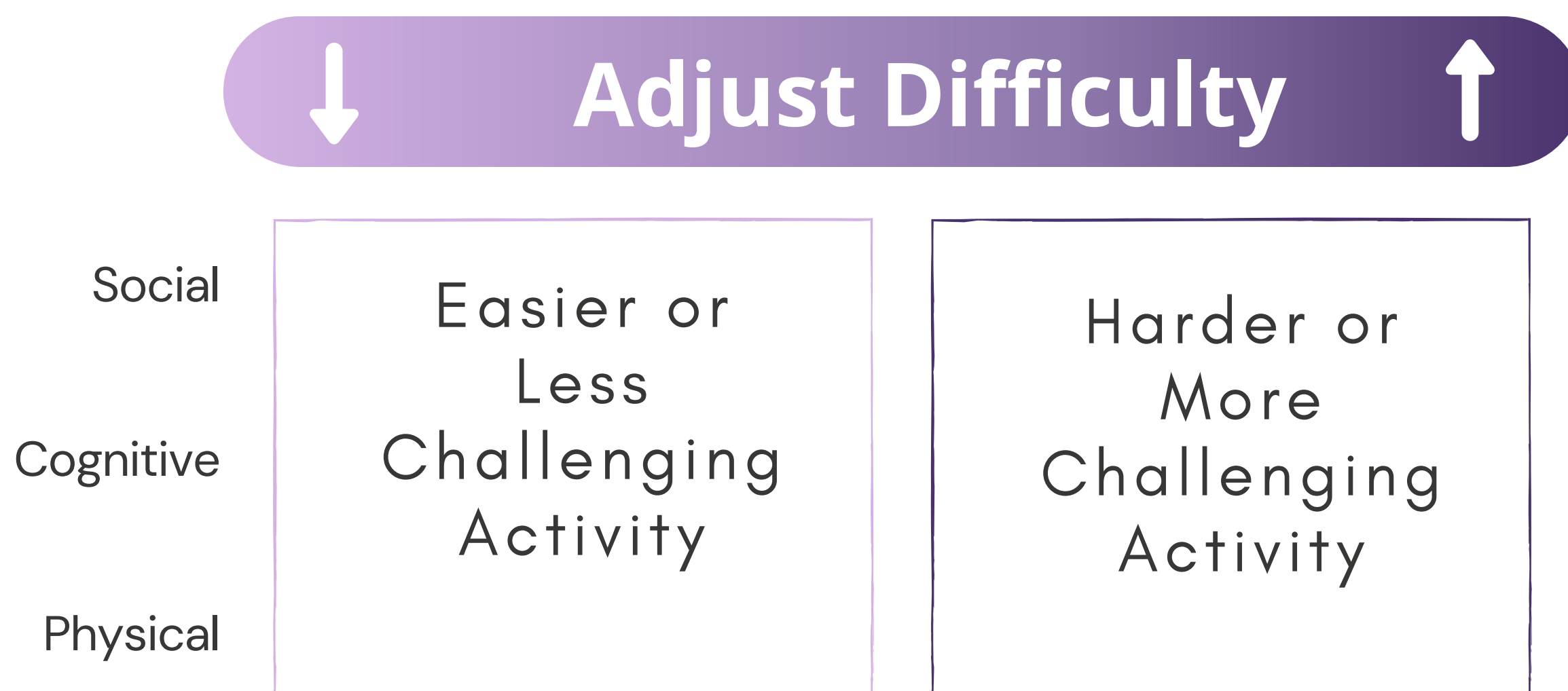




Introduction

HOW TO ADJUST THE ACTIVITY:

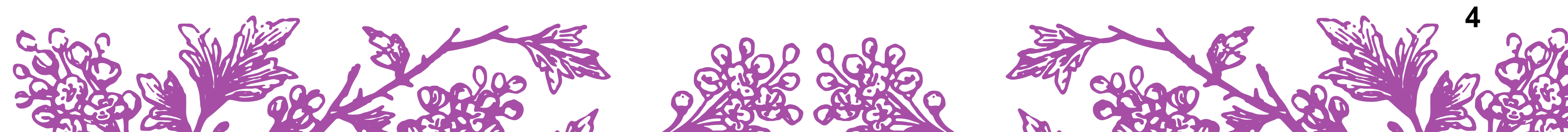
Since every individual is different, it is important to tailor the activity to your loved one's current abilities. A chart, included below, provides suggestions for how you can increase (left-hand box) or decrease (right-hand box) the challenge. For many activities, you can adjust different components of the activity: **social, physical, cognitive**. You may want to adjust one component, or adjust them all. The activity should be stimulating and challenging, while still allowing your loved one to experience success. Before beginning the activity, think about what your loved one can participate in and do your best to only assist as much as needed. Throughout the stages of dementia, ensure to promote your loved one's decision making and independence.

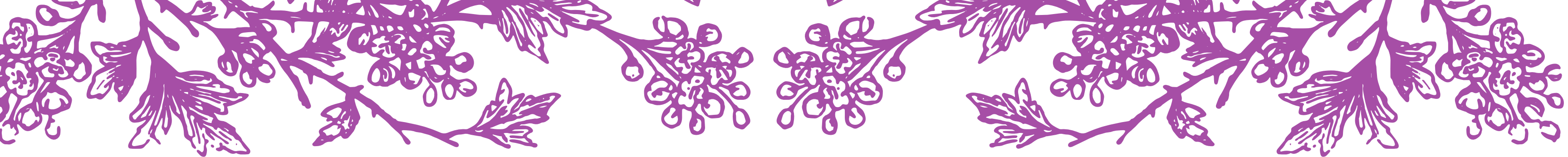


Social: changing the extent of interactions with others by including fewer or more people in the activity

Physical: changing how much effort is needed, aspects of the environment or how the body is used to complete the activity

Cognitive: changing the complexity of the activity and the mental effort needed to complete it





Introduction

There are several **icons** throughout this activity book; below is a description of what each illustrates



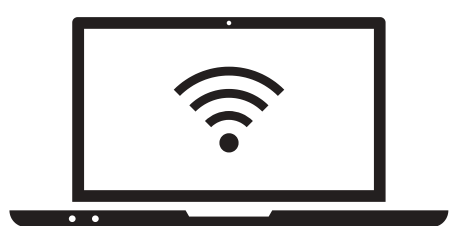
Safety: some safety and precaution tips will be provided



Click the Link: the underlined words or links can be clicked, and will bring you to additional external sources



Idea: some tips to make your activity more fun, exciting and stimulating for both you and your loved one

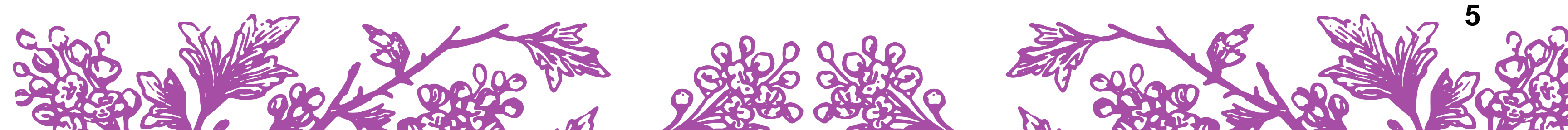


Virtual: this activity can be done online through a computer/iPad or any other electronic device that has internet connection



Holiday: these activities are specific to the holiday season

NOTE: You can find blank pages at the end of the book to fill in your own activities.



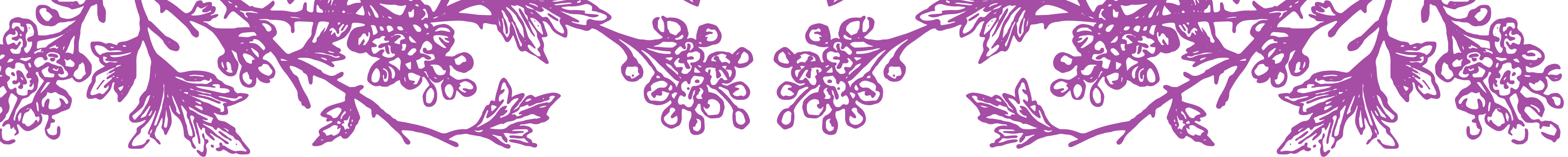











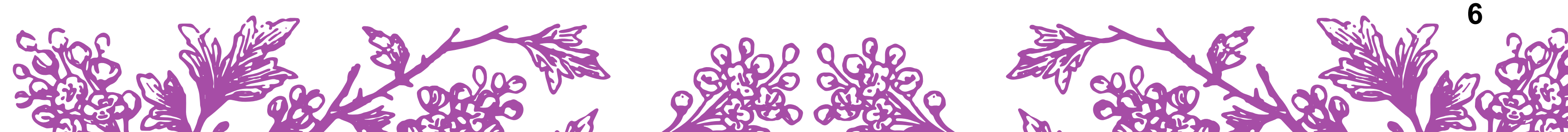
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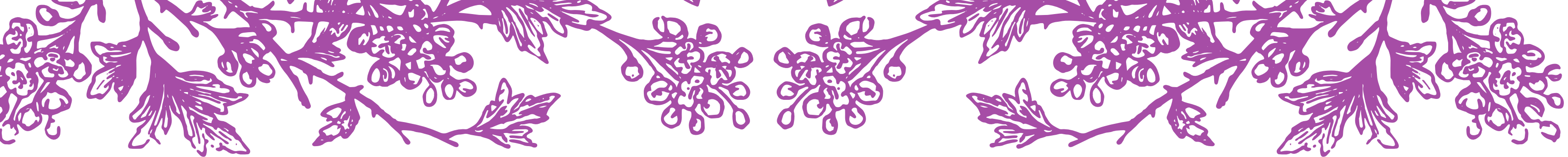


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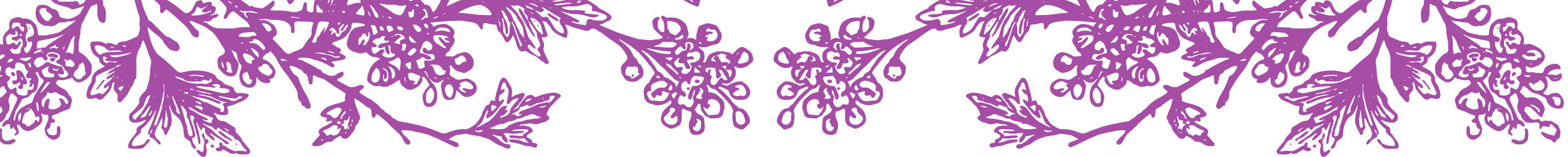
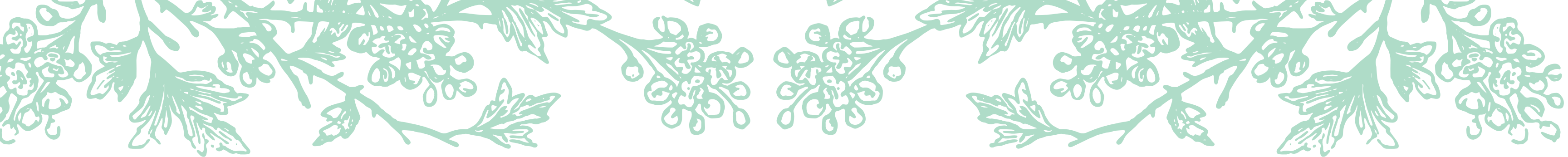


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CREATING & CRAFTING

Creating and crafting encompasses many activities individuals engage in throughout their lifetime. For you and your loved one, these can lead to feelings of relaxation, improved mood, and sparked creativity. Moreover, creating something can be very empowering, as it provides a greater sense of control and can improve self-esteem. Participating together promotes social engagement and strengthens the bond between you and your loved one. Focus on utilizing your loved one's strengths, while choosing activities that they love to do, and incorporating materials or objects that they have worked with before (1). This allows both you and your loved one to reminisce and improve wellbeing!



1

COOKING TIME

Materials Needed

The materials for cooking will heavily depend on what is being made.

- Recipe of choice and corresponding ingredients
- Culinary tools
- Kitchen area

Why do it?

Cooking can be an excellent way to stimulate all senses and promote social engagement while providing an individual with a sense of contribution. It can also help alleviate aggressive or agitated behaviours. Since some individuals with dementia lack appetite, this could provide them with the opportunity to make their own, more appealing food!



Adjust Difficulty



Social

- Have your loved one watch you cook.

Cognitive

- Read the recipe instructions out loud to your loved one.
- Prepare a snack.

Physical

- Prepare food with pre-made mixes.
- Pre-cut and measure ingredients.
- Provide suitable physical, verbal and visual guidance.
- Mix and chop ingredients from a seated position.

- Provide supervision by helping out or just by being around.

- Have your loved one carry out each step of the recipe independently.
- Prepare a full meal.

- Prepare a meal from scratch.

Safety



Person

- Always use supervision to avoid burns on appliances such as stoves or ovens.
- Cut food into small pieces and use softer foods when needed to facilitate swallowing and avoid choking.

Equipment

- Use oven mitts on hot plates and surfaces.
- Use labelled foods and always check expiration dates.
- Use a timer or an auto shut-off oven or stove to avoid burning the food and creating a fire hazard.

Environment

- Make sure your kitchen or cooking area is clutter-free and well-lit.
- Have a table and chairs where you can sit to cook rather than stand, to reduce fatigue.

Be prepared in order to minimize accidents!

Recipe Ideas

Notes

- If your loved one is making the majority of the recipe, ensure all ingredients are used and no steps are missed!
- In the next few pages, examples of possible recipes to make have been provided. Remember, if your loved one is in the late stage of dementia, simply watching you prepare a meal in person, or in video, can promote their engagement and sense of participation.

Additional Resources



- For additional recipes, "[Cooking for People with Dementia](#)" provides lots of ideas!
- Find ways to promote your loved one's eating habits and nutrition, check out [Alzheimer's Association Food and Eating](#).
- Keep your home safe with the [Home Safety Checklist!](#)

Picnic Sandwich

Steps

1. Gather preferred ingredients for a sandwich (bread, butter, tomatoes, lettuce, ham, cheese, etc.)
2. Place ingredients on bread, one-by-one.
3. Enjoy this sandwich together in the kitchen, or bring it outdoors for a picnic!



- Ingredients can be pre-cut depending on your loved one's ability.
- Pita bread may be used, cutting the pita in half and filling the inside with ingredients, to keep the food well compacted and make it less messy to eat.

Full Recipe at: <https://dementia.livebetterwith.com/blogs/advice/14-cooking-and-kitchen-activity-ideas-for-care-home-residents>



Recipe Ideas

Fruit Kebabs

Steps

1. Gather preferred fruits (bananas, strawberries, mango, etc.) and skewers.
2. Cut and thread each fruit through the skewer; fruits can also be peeled if desired.
3. As an optional step, melt some chocolate to dip the kebabs into or drizzle on top.
4. Enjoy!



- Make sure to cut the fruit into small enough pieces to help with swallowing, and try using softer fruits if possible. Use a plastic skewer to avoid potential injury.

- This simple recipe gives your loved ones the option to choose their preferred fruits and improves fine motor skills!



Full Recipe at: <https://dementia.livebetterwith.com/blogs/advice/14-cooking-and-kitchen-activity-ideas-for-care-home-residents>

Bake and Decorate Cookies

Steps

1. Gather ingredients required to make the cookie dough
2. Roll out cookie dough.
3. Using cookie cutters, cut out cookies of different shapes and bake them according to the recipes instructions.
4. Using pre-made frosting, sprinkles and any other decoration you want, decorate the cookies with your loved one.



- Use an easy sugar cookie recipe to make your cookies from scratch, or make them from a mix!

- Use the oven safely, and wear oven mitts when taking the cookies out. Ensure cookies are completely cooled prior to consumption.



Full Recipe at: <https://www.active-minds.org/news/5-baking-activities-suitable-for-those-with-dementia/>



Recipe Ideas

Multi-Purpose Dough

Steps (makes 4 loaves of bread or 4 pizzas)

1. Measure 5.5 cups flour, 1.5 tsp yeast, 2.25 tbsp salt and 2.5 cups water.
2. Use your fingers to mix the yeast, salt and flour in a bowl.
3. Pour the water in while stirring with your fingers. Once water is mixed, start kneading the dough (add flour if dough is too sticky, or add water if dough is too dry).
4. Place in a deep, lightly greased bowl, cover and let it rise until it has doubled in size.
5. Follow cooking directions for bread or pizza recipe.



- Depending on your loved one's ability, have them engage in more steps of the recipe.
- Kneading the dough can be relaxing, so just doing this step can be enough stimulation.

Full Recipe at: <https://www.injennieskitchen.com/2017/09/all-purpose-dough-for-bread-pizza-more/>



Pizza

Steps

1. Using the dough from the above recipe, roll it out with a rolling pin or stretch it out using your hands to form a circle about 1/2 inch thick.
2. Choose sauce, cheese and toppings (cut any ingredients that need to be cut).
3. Place ingredients on pizza.
4. Bake for 12-15 minutes until dough is cooked and cheese is melted in a 400°F oven.
5. Let cool a bit and enjoy!



- Always wear oven mitts when moving the pizza in and out of the oven. Ensure the pizza has cooled slightly prior to eating.
- Buy pre-packaged or frozen pizza dough to make this recipe a little faster!



Recipe Ideas

Smoothie Time!

Steps

1. Gather preferred liquid (milk, juice, yogurt), fruits and/or vegetables (spinach, berries, bananas, etc.) and any other ingredients your loved one wants added (dates, cocoa powder, etc.).
2. Cut the fruits and vegetables into small chunks.
3. Put everything in the blender and blend until fully mixed.
4. Pour smoothie into a separate glass and enjoy!
 - Depending on your loved one's abilities, you may want to operate the blender and pre-cut the fruits and vegetables.
 - This food is in liquid form, making it easier to swallow.
 - Do not let your loved one drink with a straw, as this could lead to choking!



Full Recipe at: <https://dementia.livebetterwith.com/blogs/advice/14-cooking-and-kitchen-activity-ideas-for-care-home-residents>

Strawberry Freezer Jam

Steps

1. Gather necessary ingredients (3 1/3 cups crushed strawberries, 2 Tbsp lemon juice, 1 package dry pectin & 1 1/2 cups sugar).
2. Crush the strawberries and add the lemon juice and pectin in a microwable bowl; let it sit for 20 minutes.
3. Add sugar; stir until dissolved. Heat in the microwave for 10 minutes. Remove and stir.
4. Skim the foam off the top, then pour into containers of your choice. Let them sit at room temperature for 1 hour.
5. After the jam has set, put containers in the freezer and consume whenever you want!

- Beware of hot surfaces!
- Made too much? Give these as a gift!



Full Recipe at: <https://www.dessertnowdinnerlater.com/low-sugar-strawberry-freezer-jam-tips-tricks-to-setting-jam/>



Recipe Ideas

Morning Pancakes

Steps

1. Gather ingredients indicated on the pancake mix box.
 2. Stir all ingredients together to form a batter, leaving a few lumps.
 3. Heat frying pan and pour about 1/4 cup of batter. Flip once little bubbles form on the top.
- Add chocolate chips or blueberries to your batter for some extra flavor!
 - Want an extra challenge? Make your pancake batter from scratch.



- Always use supervision and caution when operating the stove top as there is a risk of burns.



Full Recipe at: <https://books.google.ca/books?id=YrYrTo-OvOC&pg=PA74&ots=MozAQInOEK&dq=dumpling%20making%20for%20dementia&pg=PA4#v=onepage&q=dumpling%20making%20for%20dementia&f=false>



Mashed Potatoes

Steps

1. Gather potatoes, whole milk, butter, salt and any spices that you want to add in.
2. Cut potatoes and place in pot with salted water to boil for 20 minutes or until soft.
3. Drain the potatoes.
4. Mash the boiled potatoes with milk, butter, salt and any other spices you want to add in.
5. Let sit for a few minutes to cool and enjoy!



- Mashing all the foods together is a great repetitive activity for your loved one. It is also low-impact, as little force is required to mash the potatoes together once softened.

Full Recipe at: <https://books.google.ca/books?id=YrYrTo-OvOC&pg=PA74&ots=MozAQInOEK&dq=dumpling%20making%20for%20dementia&pg=PA4#v=onepage&q=dumpling%20making%20for%20dementia&f=false>

2

ORIGAMI MAKING



Materials Needed

- Coloured origami paper
- Scissors
- Instruction (written or video)

Why do it?

Origami is a Japanese paper folding art that works on fine motor skills. It can stimulate cognition as it requires the individual to attend to each step and to pay attention on how to correctly make each fold. If all steps are followed correctly, the end product can be a beautiful addition to your loved one's home decor.

Steps

1. Choose a preferred origami pattern.
2. Gather necessary materials.
3. Follow each step of cutting and folding using visual and/or verbal instruction.



Adjust Difficulty

Social

- Provide physical, verbal, and visual guidance as needed.

- Let your loved one engage in as many steps as possible.

Cognitive

- Watch the instructions through video and sit together while you make it.

- Choose a more complex pattern that matches their ability.

Physical

- Choose an origami with fewer steps.

Safety

Use safety scissors, or pre-cut pieces of paper!




2

ORIGAMI MAKING



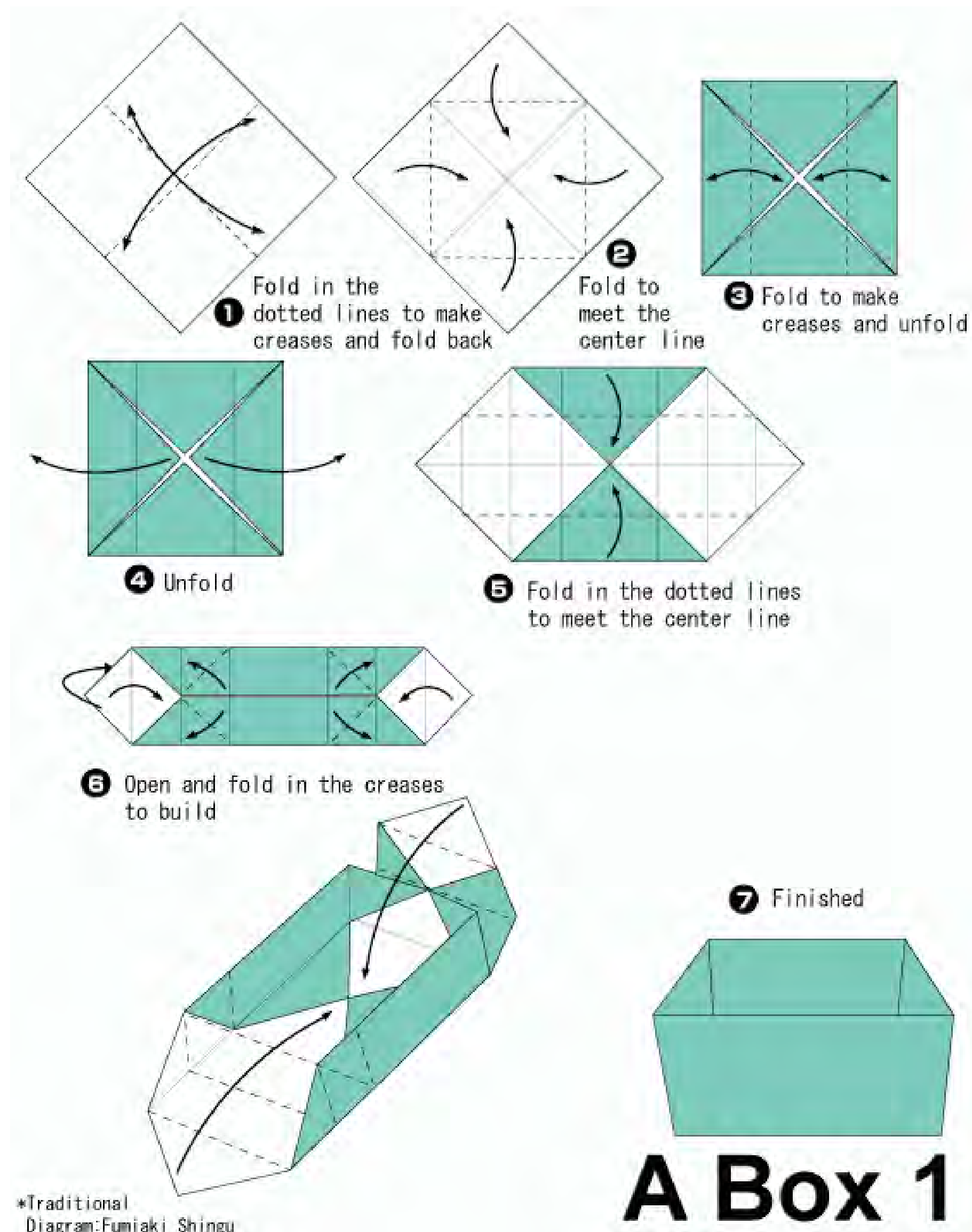
Make an Origami Box

- Read these instructions to make your own origami box, which can be used to store memorable items or anything you or your loved one wants!
- For more visual instruction, [watch this instructional video](#) 

Resources



This Origami Handbook provides a guide of different origami figures of varying difficulties that can be made by you and your loved one.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/433190057897669491/>

3 MAKE PLAY DOUGH

Why do it?

Making your own play dough can lead to great sensory stimulation of touch, smell and sight! Working with any type of dough also has a great relaxing effect.



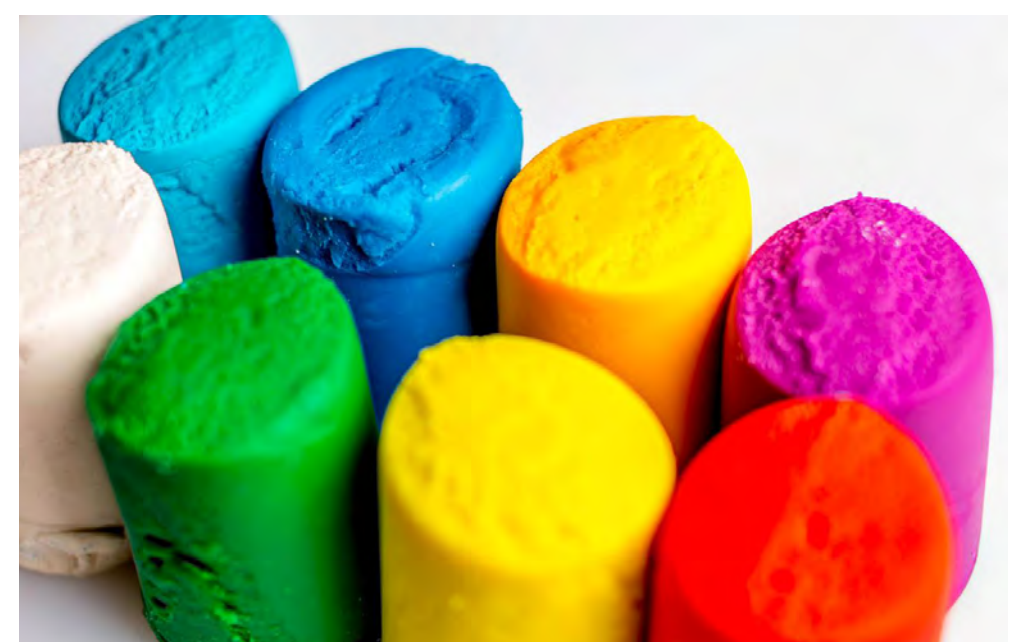
Materials Needed

- Bowl
- Tablespoon
- 1 tablespoon hair conditioner
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water
- 6-10 drops essential oils (optional)
- Food colouring (optional)

Steps

Recipe taken from Play Doh Kitchen :

1. Mix conditioner and food colouring in a bowl.
2. Once well-mixed, add cornstarch and mix with a spoon until fully combined.
3. Add water and mix again.
4. Put some cornstarch on a cutting board, and place mixture onto it, incorporating the cornstarch until playdough consistency is reached.
5. If using essential oils, knead them in to the dough. Repeat with food colouring.
6. Sculpt your homemade dough into any shape you want!



Additional Resources

Watch this [video](#) for a more detailed visual guide to [making your homemade play dough!](#)



Adjust Difficulty

Make the play dough ahead of time or buy play dough from your local dollar store or [Walmart](#).

Let your loved on do most of the creating!

Safety

Even homemade dough can still be toxic; supervise your loved one while making and playing with the dough to avoid ingestion.



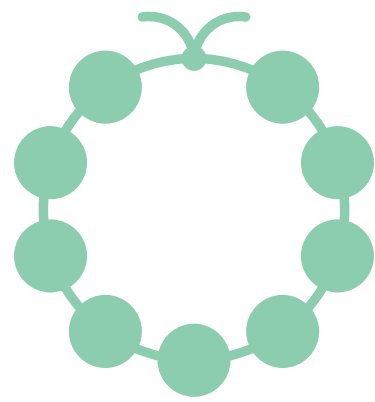
Notes

The essential oils are optional but provide a great and simple way to stimulate your loved one's sense of smell. Put in essential oil scents that bring back memories to make this more of a reminiscing activity!



4

MAKE JEWELLERY



Why do it?

Making jewellery requires large amounts of fine manipulation to string beads and therefore allows you to work on maintaining your loved ones finger dexterity. The finished jewellery can be kept or given as gifts to others.

Steps

1. Pick out preferred beads and coloured string.
2. String beads in a desired pattern to make a necklace, ring or bracelet.
3. Tie a knot at the end of the string when the desired length and number of beads has been achieved.

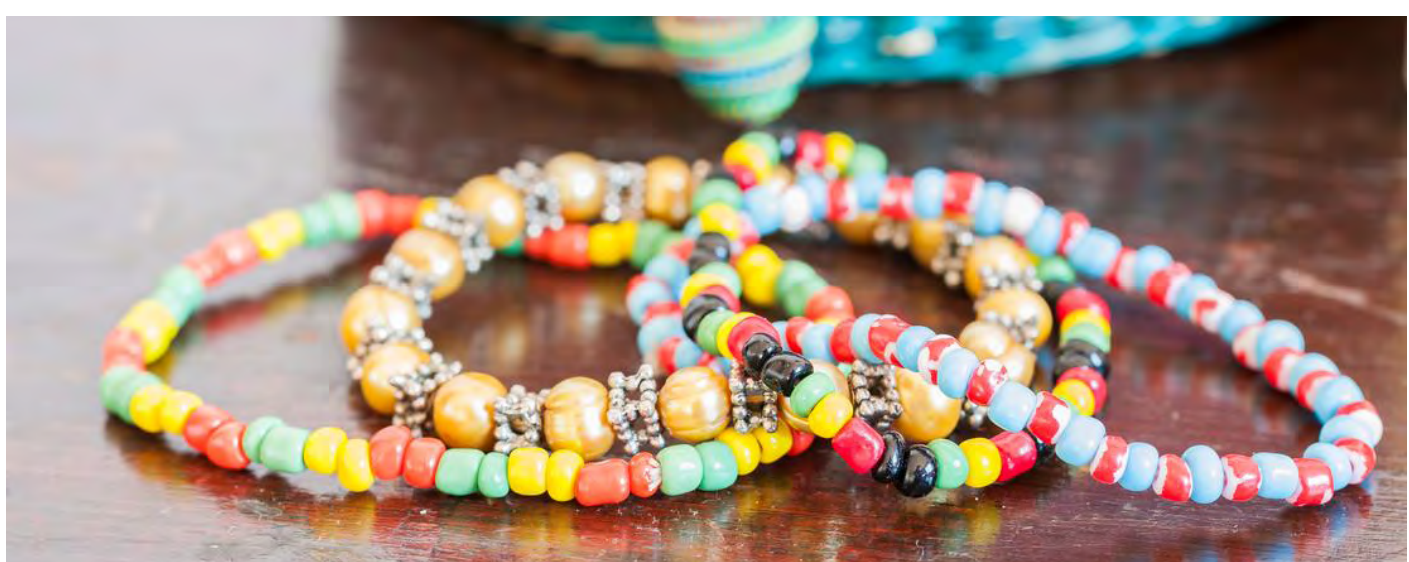
Materials Needed

- Beads (Pony beads or others)
- Different coloured string, elastic or threads
- Anything else you want to add to your bracelet (seashells, buttons...)

Adjust Difficulty

- Use pony beads, which have larger holes, making it easier to pull the string through the bead
- If unable to make jewellery, have your loved one show you which beads they want and make a piece of jewellery for them!

- Use various sizes and shapes of beads to stimulate fine motor abilities or try a friendship bracelet!



Safety



Always supervise your loved one to avoid accident or injury as small beads are a choking hazard if ingested.

4

MAKE JEWELLERY

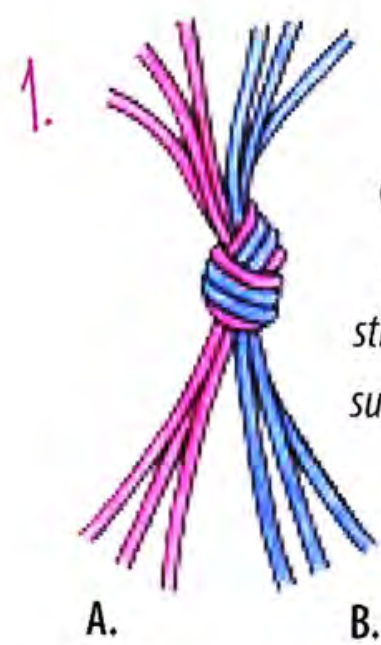


Ideas

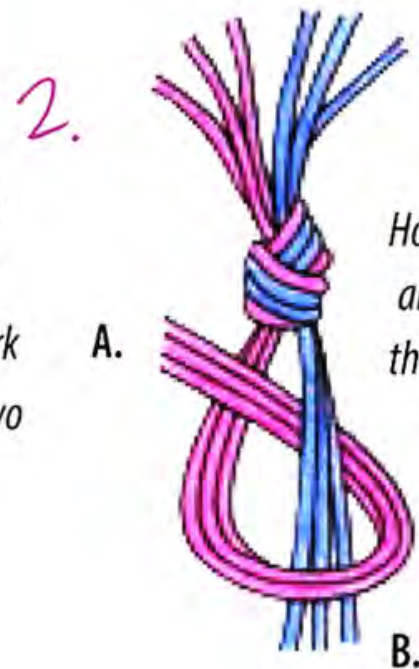
- Bored of beads? Try finding things around your house or outside, like seashells and buttons!
- Make a bead-less friendship bracelet using only string. Follow the instructions below to make them!



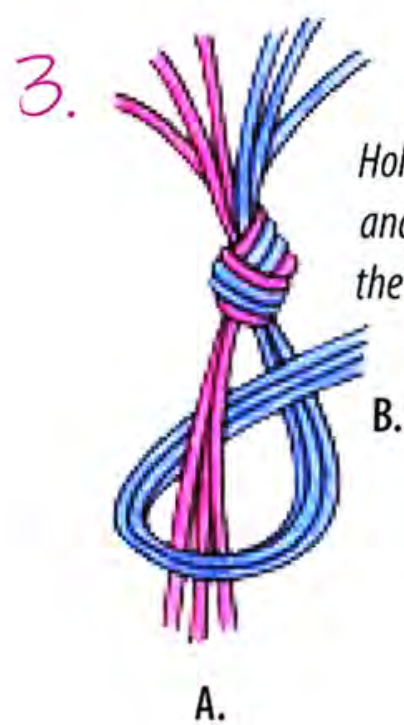
DOUBLE KNOT BRACELET



1. Choose two colors, and cut three equal strands of each. Knot the strands together and secure to work surface. Separate the colors into two bunches (A and B).



2. Hold the B strings on the right straight and taut. Then place the A strings on the left over the B strings on the right, and make a forward knot.



3. Hold the A strings on the left straight and taut. Then place the B strings on the right over the A strings on the left to make a backward knot.



4. Repeat process until bracelet is desired length.

<https://images.app.goo.gl/z3mTshB74hiYVZ7p9>

Additional Resources

- You can [purchase string and beads at multiple sites, including Amazon](#)
- Watch a [video of how to make a friendship bracelet](#) for more visual instruction



5

KNIT A TWIDDLE MUFF



Why do it?

A Twiddle Muff is a knitted hand muff with bits-and-bobs attached. Knitting can be therapeutic, relieving symptoms of depression and anxiety, as the repetitive task can stimulate a relaxing environment. Having the Twiddle Muff can then stimulate senses and keep your loved one's hands busy!

Steps

1. If you or your loved one has previous knitting experience, knit the Twiddle Muff following these specific instructions which can be found at [The Golden Carers Website](#).
2. Decorate the Twiddle Muff with anything you want (buttons, beads, buckles, flowers) using a sewing needle and thread.



<https://images.app.goo.gl/jzUEs72oPkGSgeWr5>

Materials Needed

- Yarn or wool
- Knitting needles
- Anything you want to put on the Twiddle Muff (buttons, beads, ribbons, etc.)
- Sewing needle and thread



Adjust Difficulty



If your loved one is unable to knit, simply making or buying them a Twiddle Muff can help stimulate their senses – ask them what decorations they want to put on it!

If your loved one already has knitting skills, have them make their own Twiddle Muff. If they don't want to make one, encourage them to knit anything else that they know how to do!



Safety



Ensure that all decorations on the Twiddle Muff are well-sewn on so that your loved one cannot take them out. Sewing needles are sharp and should be used with caution.

Additional Resources



There are many other things you can knit to stimulate your senses. For example, consider knitting items such as [wooly pom-poms](#) or a [simple scarf](#). You can also [buy Twiddle Muffs on Etsy!](#)

6

MAKE A BIRD FEEDER



Materials Needed

- Popsicle sticks
- Glue
- String



Why do it?

If you or your loved one enjoys bird watching, this activity is just for you. Make your own bird feeder and watch the birds fly in!

Steps

1. Gather all materials
2. Start arranging and gluing together the popsicle sticks. First, make a flat base, then build borders on all four sides using 6–10 popsicle sticks (for an example, consult the picture below).
3. Tie four strings at each corner and make one large knot at the end of the strings to hold it all together.
4. Pour bird seeds into the feeder and place it on a branch nearby.
5. Wait and watch for the birds!



Adjust Difficulty



- Choose an easier bird feeder design to create.
- Create the bird feeder yourself, and sit down with your loved one to watch as the birds fly in to feed!

- Guide your loved one through the instructions, but let them do the majority of the steps!
- Create more difficult bird feeders.

Safety



Stay with your loved one to ensure proper use of glue and bird seeds. Glue may be toxic if ingested.



Additional Resources

Other types of bird feeders can be made depending on your and your loved one's abilities. This [DIY site](#) provides many different ideas for easier bird feeders such as cheerio or orange cup bird feeders, as well as more difficult ones to make!



7

MAKE ORNAMENTS



Why do it?

Get creative by making different ornaments with salt dough, and then decorate your home with them! This activity works on creativity, fine motor skills, and tactile stimulation.

Materials Needed

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1.5 cups water
- Food colouring (optional)
- Cookie cutters
- Rolling Pin
- Paint and Paintbrush (optional)

Steps

Salt Dough Recipe taken from [this site](#):

1. Combine flour, salt and water (and food colouring if desired), and knead the dough for 10 minutes.
2. Roll out the dough and cut it into desired shapes.
3. Make imprints on the dough using fingers and hands or other tools!
4. Make a small hole at the top of your ornament so that you can hang it with a string later.
5. Bake in a 250°F oven for 1-2 hours, until hard.
6. Take the ornaments out of the oven, let them cool and decorate them by painting on them if desired!



Safety



- Supervise your loved one close to the oven and hot trays.
- Operate the oven yourself, making sure to turn it off once you are done and wear oven mitts when taking things in-and-out.

7

MAKE ORNAMENTS

↓ Adjust Difficulty ↑

Physical

- Make the ornaments yourself, asking your loved one for preferred colours and shapes.

Cognitive

- Pre-make the dough for the ornaments and have your loved one roll it out, cut them and put designs on them using their hands, as possible.

- Let your loved one engage in as many steps of the activity as possible, being cautious and supervising when working with the oven and hot surfaces.



Idea

Do this activity while listening to music and chatting to enhance the social environment!

Additional Resources

- For more visual learners, watch [the video instructions on how to make salt dough!](#)
- If you want to stimulate your senses a little more, check out the cinnamon ornaments in the 'Stimulate your Senses' section!

8

CREATE A SCRAPBOOK



Why do it?

Making a scrapbook together can be a way to reminisce and share stories, while also allowing a person to work on their creativity and fine motor skills.



Materials Needed

- Notebook
- Glue Stick
- Photos
- Scissors
- Colored Paper
- Magazines with recipes (optional)

Safety



Use non-toxic glue and safety scissors to decrease risk of injury.

Steps

1. Find any type of notebook or a binder full of white pages.
2. Gather personal photos, coloured paper, preferred images from magazines or anything else that you want to put in the scrapbook.
3. Glue personal photos, images and coloured paper onto pages of the notebook and write down anything you want next to them!



8

CREATE A SCRAPBOOK



Adjust Difficulty



Cognitive

- Let your loved one choose which item to glue on.

- Have your loved one gather all the materials they want to put into their scrapbook independently.

Physical

- Pre-cut patterns and images from magazines.
- Glue each item on the notebook and write notes for them.

- Let your loved one glue, cut and write notes next to the images independently.



Ideas



- Love cooking? Cut out your favourite recipes from magazines or newspapers and glue them onto your scrapbook!
- Love nature? Pick up your favorite leaves or flowers, dry and press them, then glue them in!

Additional Resources



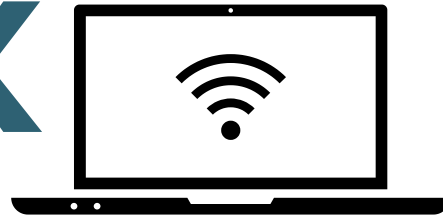
This activity can be done online through a virtual scrapbook maker. Once created, purchase your scrapbook and have it delivered to you. Make your own scrapbook online today!

To make this activity more nostalgic, check out the next page!



9

CREATE A MEMORY BOOK



Why do it?

This is an alternative to scrapbooking! Making a book is a great way to tell stories and look at pictures together. Reading it regularly may bring a sense of comfort in the later stages of dementia.

Materials Needed

Memorabilia such as:

- Old photographs
- Maps
- Postcards
- Letters
- Ticket stubs
- Drawings
- Blank scrapbook
- Glue
- Scissors

Steps

1. Spread out all the memorabilia on a table.
2. Assist your loved one to arrange the photos and other items onto blank scrapbook pages.
3. Assist your loved one to glue down all the items and write captions to go along with the memorabilia.
4. Review the book together regularly and keep it visible for easy access.

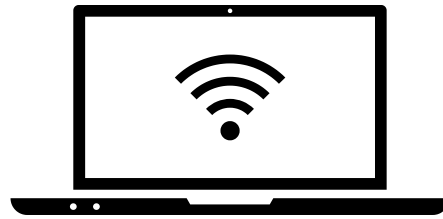


Safety

Be careful with scissors. You may want to do the cutting if you feel your loved one may not do so safely, or use safety scissors.

9

CREATE A MEMORY BOOK



Ask friends and family of your loved one to contribute items to the book. If they have a memory to share, have them write it down to add to the book.



Adjust Difficulty

Read the written stories out loud to your loved one and point out who people are in the pictures.

Ask your loved one for stories they want to add to the book.



Notes

When looking through the book together, avoid quizzing your loved one. Ex: "do you know who that is?" or "do you remember when?" This may make them feel as though they are being tested and could make them upset.

Additional Resources

Memory books can be created using existing applications on your iPad or mobile device. Use apps such as MemLife, Book Creator and Pictello!



10 PAINT, DRAW, COLLAGE



Why do it?

Engaging in artistic activities can help with stress relief and relaxation, decreasing possible negative external behaviours. It also enables your loved one to engage using their fine motor skills and can improve overall quality of life.

Steps

1. Gather materials needed for either painting, drawing or collaging.

- If using paint, make sure to put some newspaper underneath to avoid unwanted painting of surfaces!

2. Get creative!

- Draw and decorate a card to give out for different events such as the holiday seasons!
- Paint a bookmark to keep track of your next read in style.
- Collage a memory board to engage in a reminiscing activity; do this by choosing pictures, images from magazines, or anything else that provides a blast from the past and has meaning. Consider adding a little note to each picture to provide context!



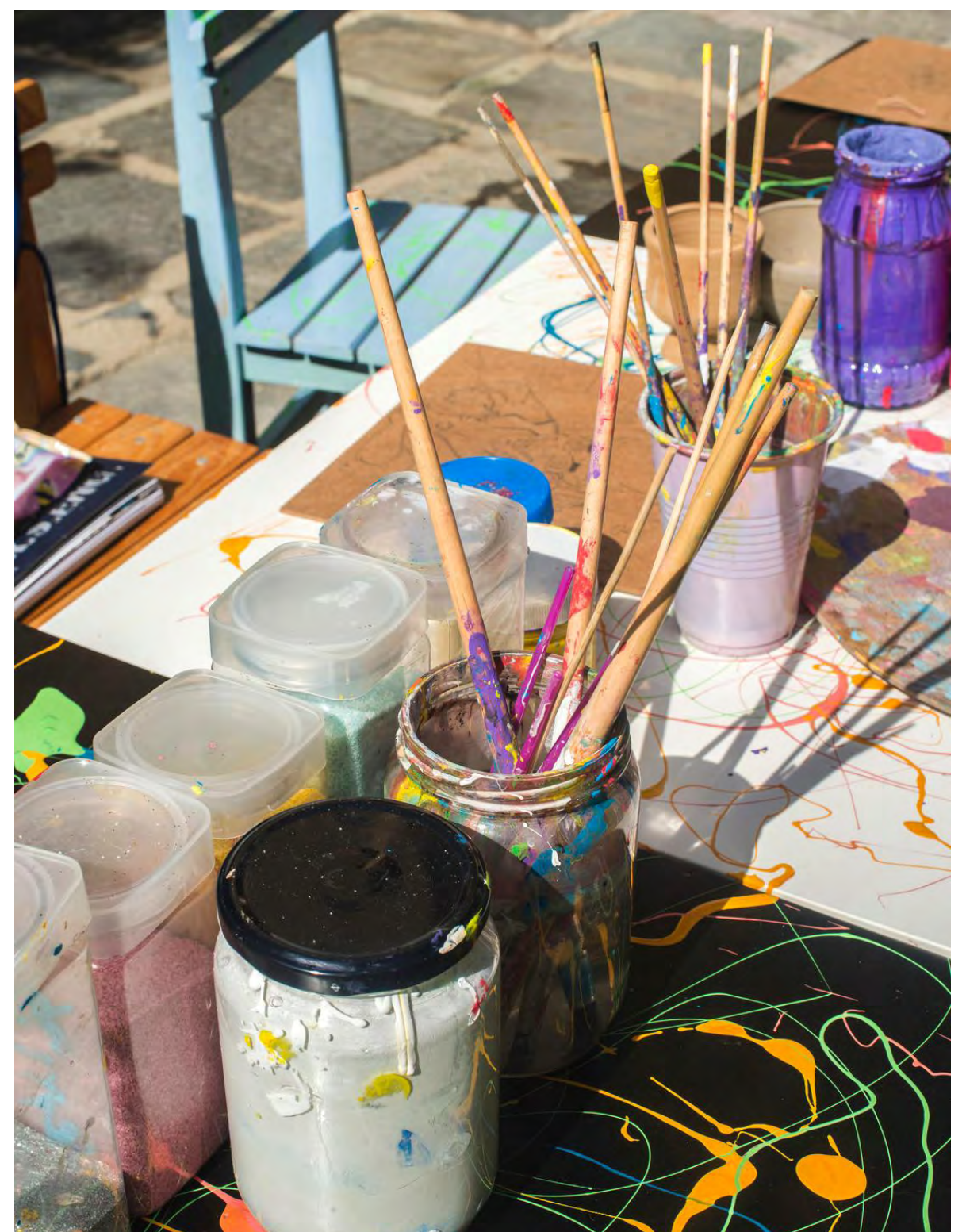
Materials Needed

Painting/Drawing

- Canvas or Paper
- Different colors of paint
- Paintbrushes
- Balloons for balloon stamping
- Pencils or pens
- Watercolor or Crayons

Collaging

- Coloured paper
- Pens and Pencils
- Glue
- Pictures
- Magazines
- Newspapers



Safety

Use supervision at all times to ensure proper use of non-toxic paint, markers, crayons and glue. Some materials may be toxic if ingested.



10

PAINT, DRAW, COLLAGE



↓ Adjust Difficulty ↑

Cognitive

- Pre-cut and organize all materials ahead of time.

- Have your loved one engage in all steps required to complete their creation independently.

Physical

- Use finger painting or balloon stamping if fine motor skills are reduced; this also allows for great tactile stimulation.

- Use paintbrushes to paint.



Notes

Even if your loved one's abilities prevent them from engaging in these activities, always give them as much control as possible. Ask them what paint, marker or paper colour they want to use, where and what they want to paint or draw, or what they want to glue on their collages. Have fun with it!



Additional Ideas



- If your loved one is non-verbal, have them draw how they are feeling that day. This could be in the form of faces, scribbles, lines - this can help to facilitate communication.
- If unable to hold a paintbrush or writing utensil, you can use balloon stamping OR draw and "paint" on a computer and through apps such as Autodesk SketchBook.
- Collage online.
- Find any other site or app by simply googling "collage online", "paint online" or "draw online"!

11

STRESS- RELIEVING COLOURING

Why do it?

Colouring can be stress relieving and can promote relaxation while improving manual dexterity.

Steps

1. Choose the preferred image you and your loved one want to colour
2. Using markers, crayons, or paint, colour in the chosen images.

Safety

Ensure the markers or colouring utensils are non-toxic.

Materials Needed

- Colouring book or printed colouring sheets (online or paper version)
- Makers, crayon, or any other utensil you want to colour with



Adjust Difficulty



Cognitive

- Use simpler designs.
- Use a virtual colouring book which requires tapping on the screen to colour if fine motor abilities are affected.

Physical

- Use more complex designs and allow for more creativity in colours.
- Use a colour-by-number colouring page to stimulate cognition.
- Use paint brushes and fine tip markers.

Resources

There are many different websites where you can find printable colouring pages, or buy colouring books for adults. Consider purchasing a colouring book made specifically for individuals with dementia:

- [Free Printable Colouring Pages](#)
 - [Easier Colouring Pages](#)
 - [Harder Colouring Pages](#)
- [Adult Colouring Book](#)

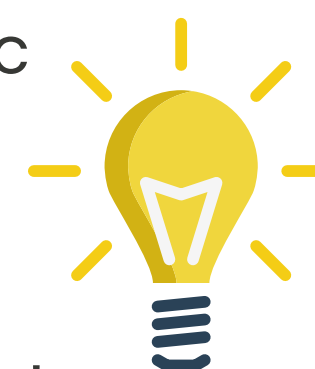


There are also virtual colouring books on apps using an iPad or computer if that is more suitable:

- [Colouring Book Apps](#)



Play calming music while colouring, or do this activity outside to further enhance relaxation!



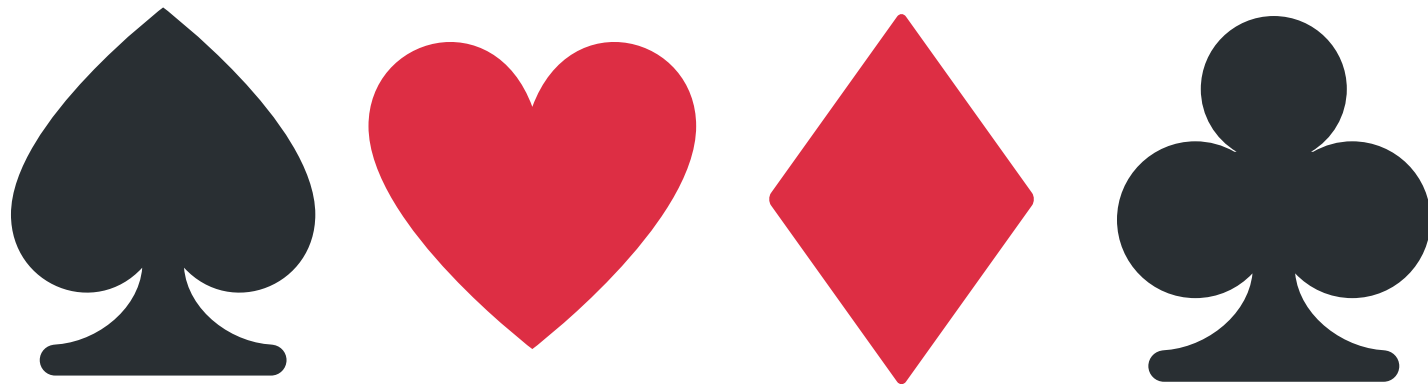
BRAIN GAMES



As the brain is one of the most essential organs in the body, it is important to keep it as active and healthy as possible. The following activities have been chosen to stimulate cognition, recall memory, problem solving, concentration, attention and visuospatial skills among others. When choosing an activity to participate in with your loved one, consider what is meaningful to them. For example, choose a card game they have previously played or a theme for crossword puzzles they are knowledgeable about. This will ensure your loved one enjoys and remains engaged in the activity at hand.

1

CARD GAMES



Materials Needed

Most card games require:

- Flat surface
- A standard 52-card deck
- Pen and paper if wanting to keep score

Why do it?

Playing card games is a great way to be inclusive of everyone during family time regardless of age and skill level. It involves brain stimulation and cognitive skills. Some games require memory and concentration while others require more logical reasoning skills and spatial awareness. In addition, holding cards is a great way to work on maintaining fine motor skills. Regardless of the card game chosen, your loved one is sure to enjoy themselves while keeping their brain active and healthy.

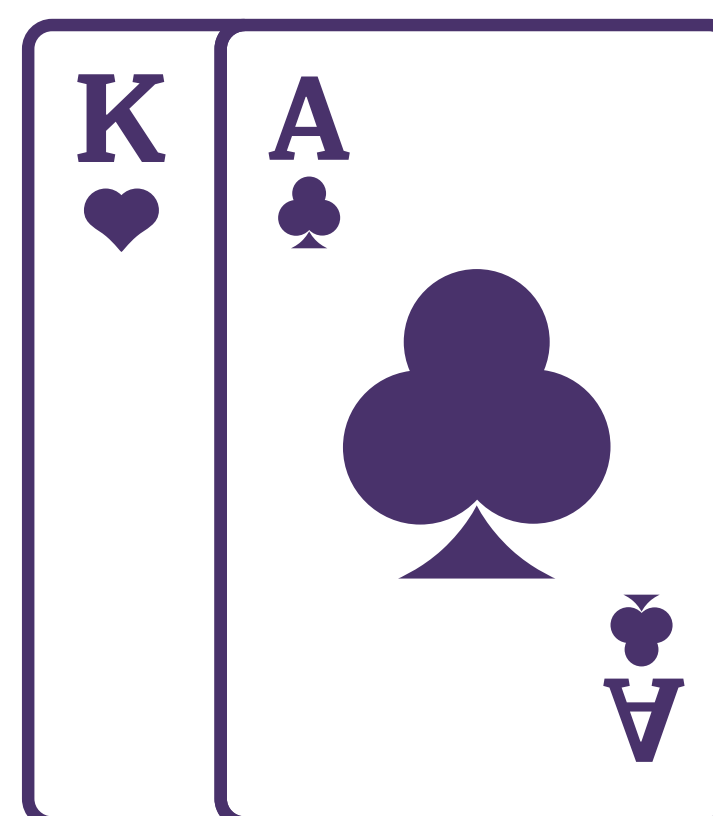


Standard 52-card decks and other specialized decks can be purchased from your local games stores, online on websites such as [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), or from larger box stores. Rules for various games can be found online at [bicyclecards.com](https://www.bicyclecards.com)



1

CARD GAMES



Adjust Difficulty



- Decrease the number of rules.
- Play for fun by not keeping score.
- Play with fewer cards.
- If your loved one has vision difficulties, seek out cards with large print numbers.

- Play with more rules.
- Add in some competition by keeping score.

Notes

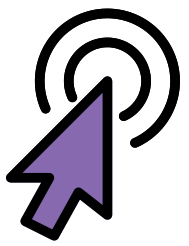
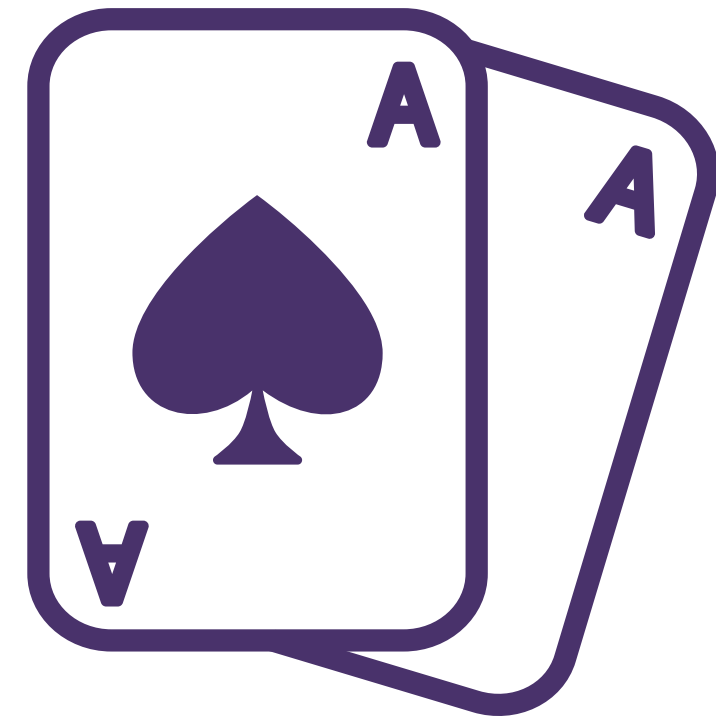
Some card games revolve around strategy while others are more based on chance. When choosing a card game to play, consider your loved ones interests and experience playing cards.




Card games of varying difficulty are listed on the next few pages. Included are their corresponding rules and materials needed.

1

CARD GAMES



GO FISH

2+ 

The Deal - A standard 52-card deck is used. Cards are dealt out clockwise, face down with each player getting seven (2-3 players) or five cards (4+ players). The remainder of the cards are spread out face down on the table in front of all players.



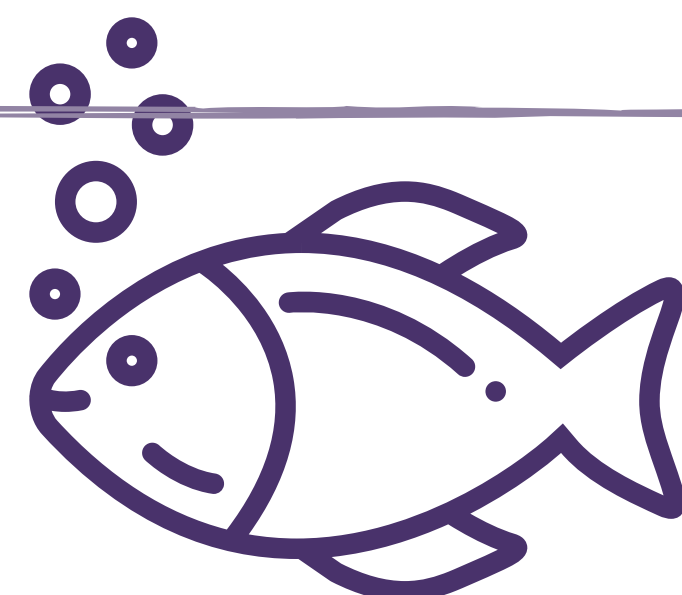
The Play - The goal of the game is to get as many pairs of numbers as possible. Starting with the player to the left of the dealer, each player takes a turn asking another player if they have a particular card.

- For example, player 1 asks player 2 "do you have any sevens?" If player 2 has a seven, they must hand it over to player 1, who removes the now made pair of cards to display in front of them. As player 1 was successful at making a pair, they continue on with their turn, asking another player for another card.
- If player 2 did not have any sevens, they would tell player 1 to "go fish", ending player 1's turn. Player 1 will now choose one card from the fanned out deck to move into their hand. It is now player 2's turn.

Game play continues until there are no more cards in the deck left unmatched. Player with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.

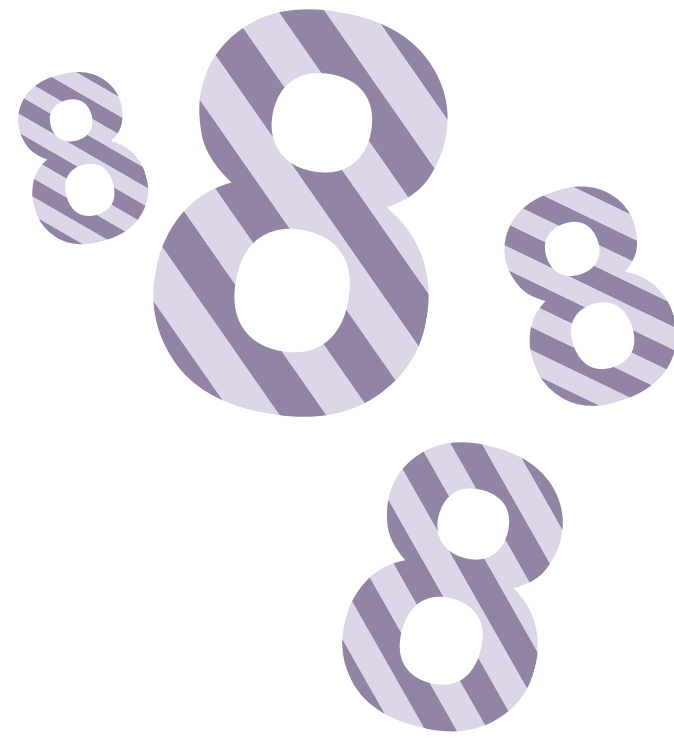
** If the card picked up from the the table matches any card in the players hand, they remove the matched cards from their hand and pick up another card from the table.

Adjust the difficulty of the game by creating pairs of 4, pairing both number and suit colour, or playing with fewer cards or more cards.



1

CARD GAMES



CRAZY EIGHTS 2+

The Deal - A standard 52-card deck is used. Cards are dealt out clockwise, face down with each player getting eight cards. The remainder of the cards are placed in a pile face down (draw pile). The top card is turned face up and placed beside the draw pile to create the discard pile.

The Play - The goal of the game is to be the first player to get rid of all the cards in their hand. Starting with the player to the left of the dealer, players take turns playing cards from their hand onto the discard pile, matching either suit or card number. Eights of any suit are wild and can be played on top of any card to change the suit. For example, if a seven of spades is on top of the discard pile, either another spade, a seven, or a wild eight can be played on top. If a player cannot discard the following suit or number, they pick up one card from the draw pile to add to their hand and their turn is over. Players take turns discarding cards until one player has no more cards in their hand. This player is the winner.

** If the draw pile empties, one player can shuffle the discard pile, leaving the last card discarded for reference, and create a new draw pile.

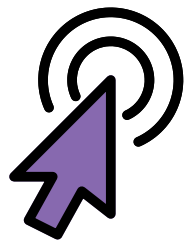
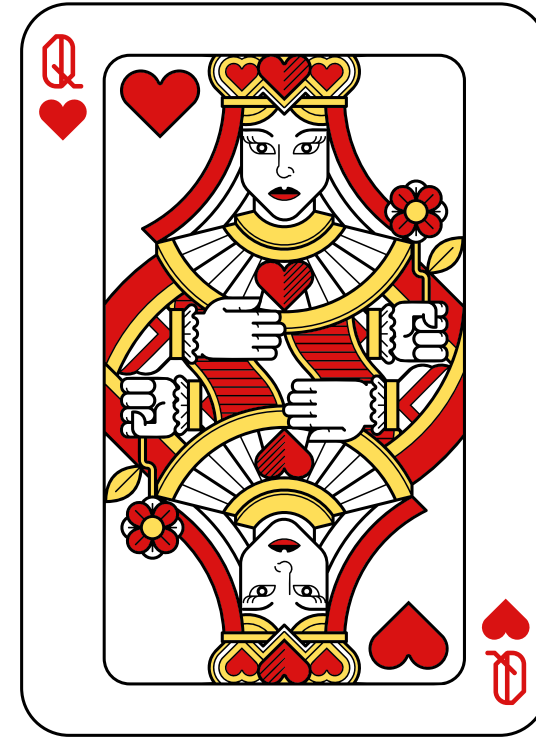


Adjust the difficulty of the game by adding other rules:

- 1) Two of any suit = next player picks up two cards from the discard pile before taking their turn.
- 2) Queen of spades = next player picks up six cards from discard pile before taking their turn.
- 3) Jack of any suit = next player picks up one card from draw pile and misses their turn.
- 4) Pick up until you can play = instead of picking up one card from draw pile if you cannot play, continue to pick up a card until one can be matched to the discard pile.

1

CARD GAMES



OLD MAID

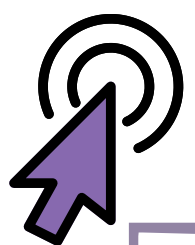
2+



The Deal – A standard 52-card deck is used with one queen removed. Specialized card packs also exist for this game with the 'old maid' identified. Cards are dealt out face down, one-by-one to each player until all cards have been distributed.

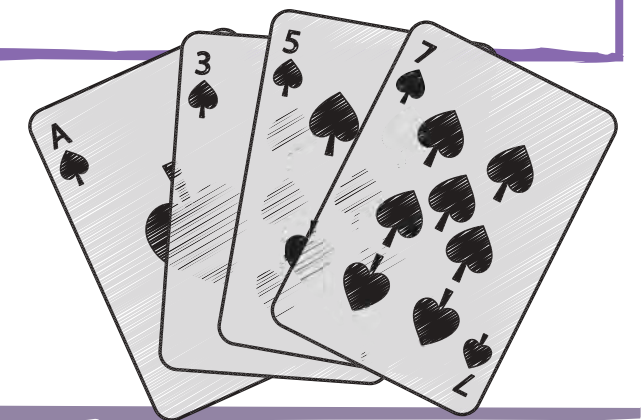
The Play – Game play begins with each player removing all pairs from their hand, displaying them in front of themselves face down. If a player has three of the same number, they must choose two of the three cards to pair up and display. Starting with the player to the left of the dealer, each player takes a turn choosing one card from the hand of the player on their right to add to their own. As players collect cards, pairs are removed and displayed face down. Game play continues until there is only the odd-queen left. The player left with the queen is the Old Maid.

Adjust the difficulty of the game by playing with fewer or more cards, or requiring pairs to match both number and colour of suit.



SEVENS

3-8

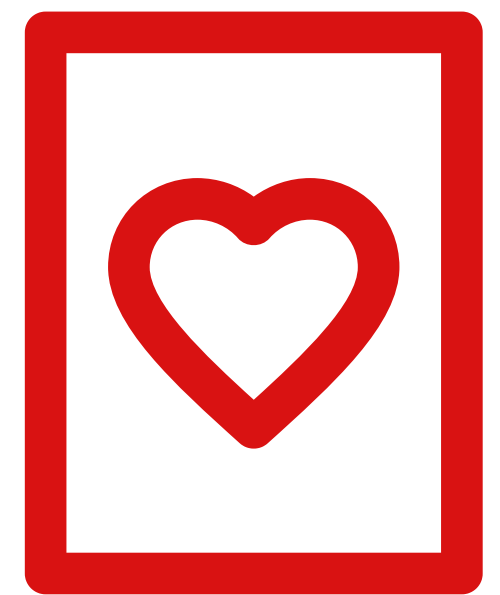
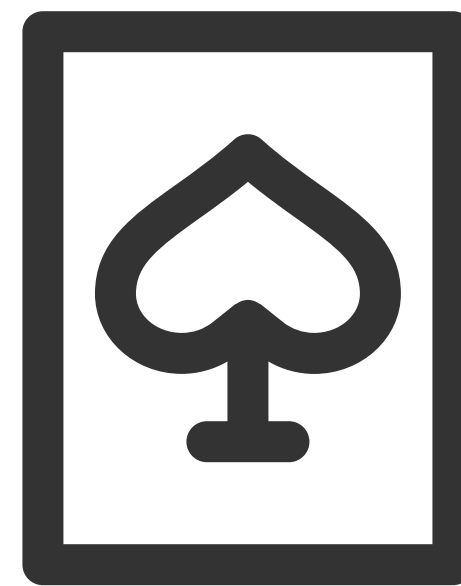


The Deal – A standard 52-card deck is used. Cards are dealt out face down, one-by-one to each player until all cards have been distributed.

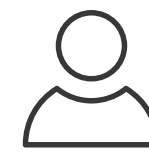
The Play – Game play begins when a seven has been played in the centre of the table. Starting with the person to the left of the dealer and moving clockwise, each player takes a turn playing a seven in the middle of the table, face up, if they have been dealt one. Once a seven has been laid down, following players have the option to play on the seven, by playing either the six or the eight of the corresponding suit, or play another seven. If a player does not have a seven in their hand, or cannot play the following ascending or descending number, they must skip their turn. The first person to have laid down all cards from their hand wins.

1

CARD GAMES



SOLITAIRE (Klondike Version) 1+



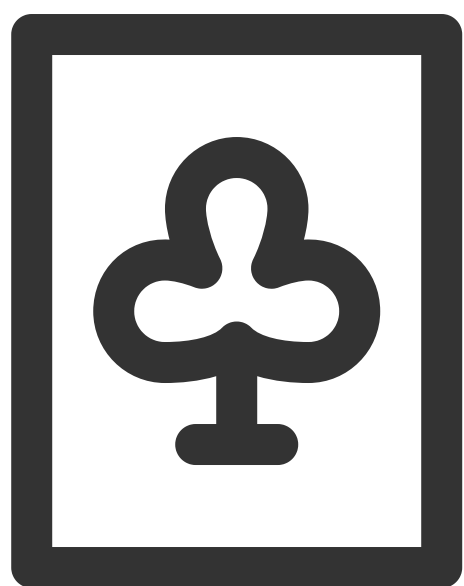
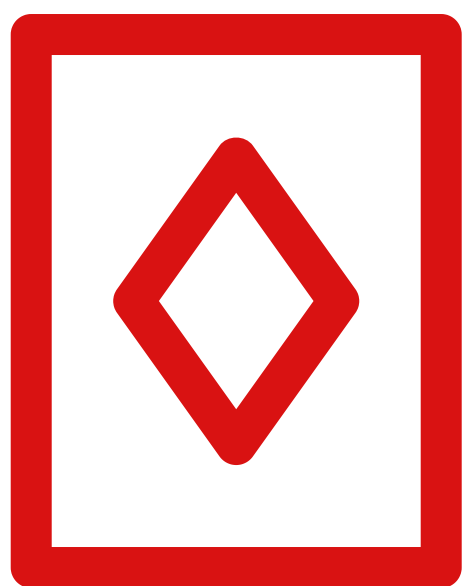
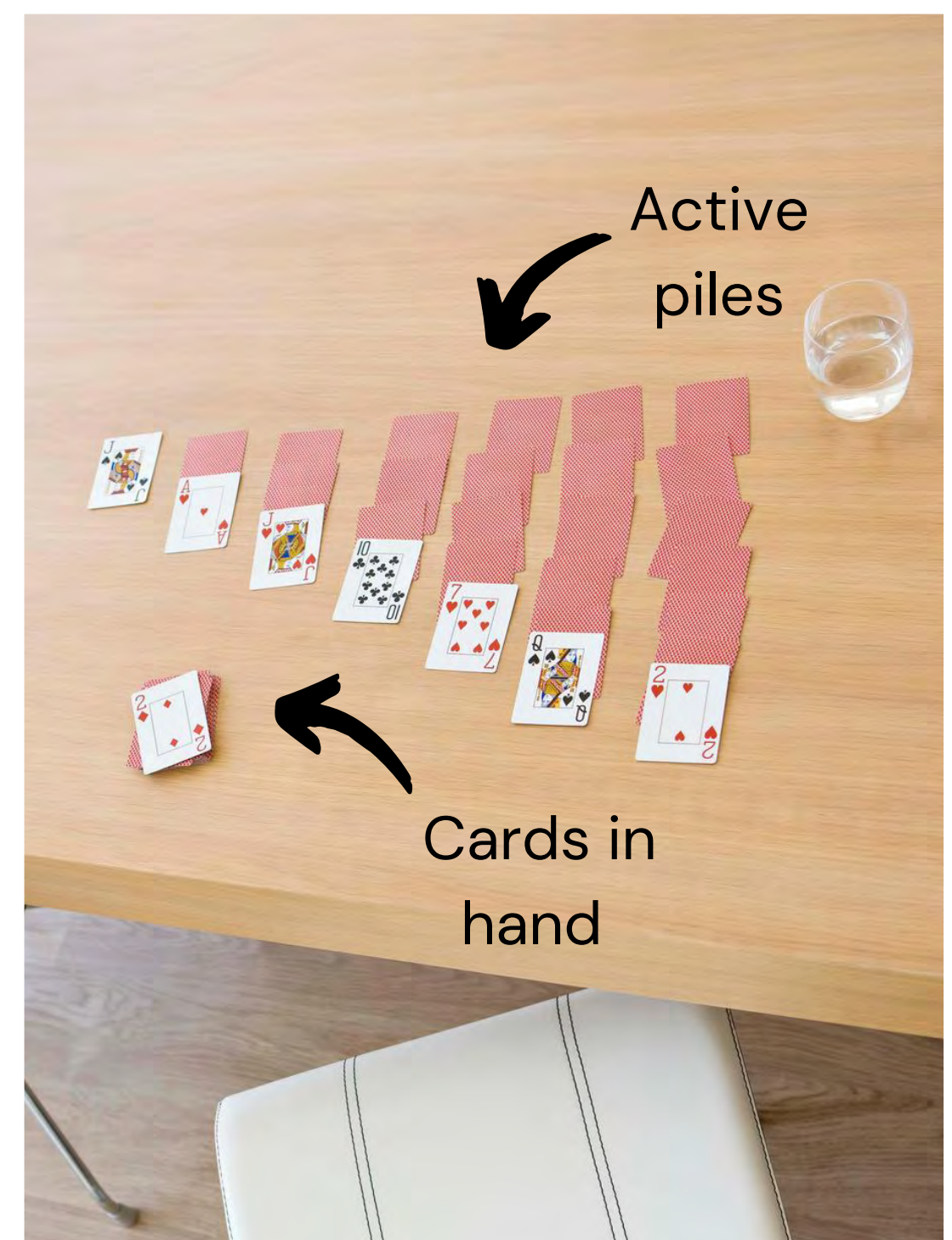
The Deal

A standard 52-card deck is used.

To set up the game, lay the top card face up followed by six cards placed face down on the right to create a row of seven. Then, place a card face up on the first face down card, followed by a face down card on each face down card to the right.

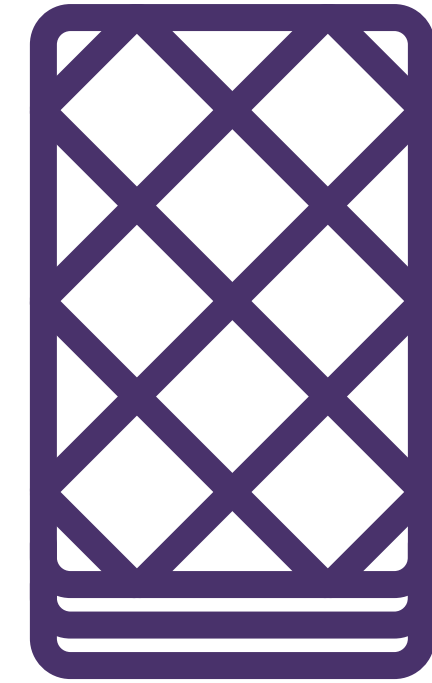
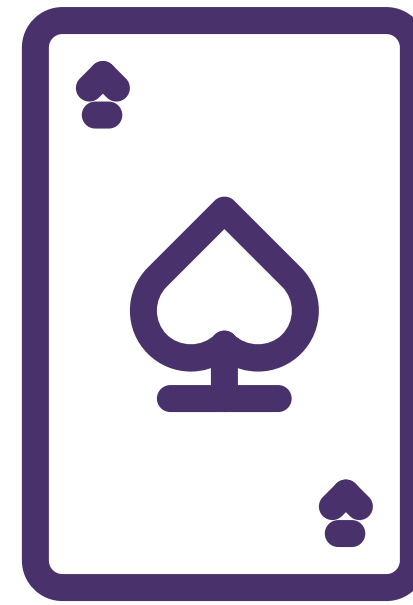
Continue this pattern until there are seven rows, each with one card face up and the remainder face down as shown in the picture on the right.

There should be one card total in the first pile, two in the second, three in the third and so on until there are seven in the seventh pile. These piles are considered the active piles. The remaining cards in the deck become your hand.



1

CARD GAMES



SOLITAIRE CONTINUED...

The Play

Both within your hand and in the game space, the top card is always available for play. Only when the top card is moved, can the second card in the pile or in your hand be available for play.

The object of the game is to create foundation piles, separated by suit, which are organized by ascending order from ace to king.

In order to create these foundation piles, cards may be moved from one active pile to another, as long as cards are moved to follow a descending number order and suit colours are alternating.

The cards in your hand are flipped over three at a time and can be played on foundation piles or game piles to expose cards underneath. Once you have cycled through your hand once, you can collect these cards - ensuring they stay in the same order - and cycle through them once again.

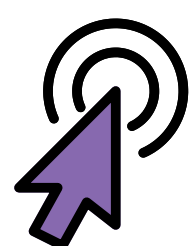
Game play continues until all 52 cards have been organized into their corresponding foundation pile, or the player cannot make any more moves.



Adjust the difficulty of the game by flipping over one card at a time from hand, or by playing double solitaire. Double solitaire is played in the same format, however all foundation piles can be played on and game play continues until one player goes out, or no more moves can be made. In this case, the player who has more cards in the foundation piles wins.

1

CARD GAMES



WAR

2-4



The Deal – A standard 52-card deck is used. Cards are dealt out face down, one-by-one to each player until all 52 cards have been distributed. Players are not to look at their hand. Keep cards in a pile face down during game play.

To Play – At the same time, all active players flip over their top card from their hand, exposing the number. The player whose card is of highest value (aces are high, twos are low) wins that round and collects all played cards to add to their hand. If two cards played are of the same value, these players are now 'at war'. Each player places three cards, face down, below the original card played. On the count of three, they add an additional card to the column, flipping it so it is face up. The player with the highest value card collects all cards on the table, including those placed face down during battle. Game play continues until one player is left with all 52 cards in their hand.

Here is a list of other card game ideas. Look for rules online!

- Uno (*requires a specialty card deck*)
- Skip-Bo (*requires a specialty card deck*)
- Cribbage
- Blackjack
- Cheat
- Spider Solitaire
- Hearts
- Rummy



CONCENTRATION 1+



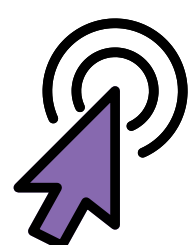
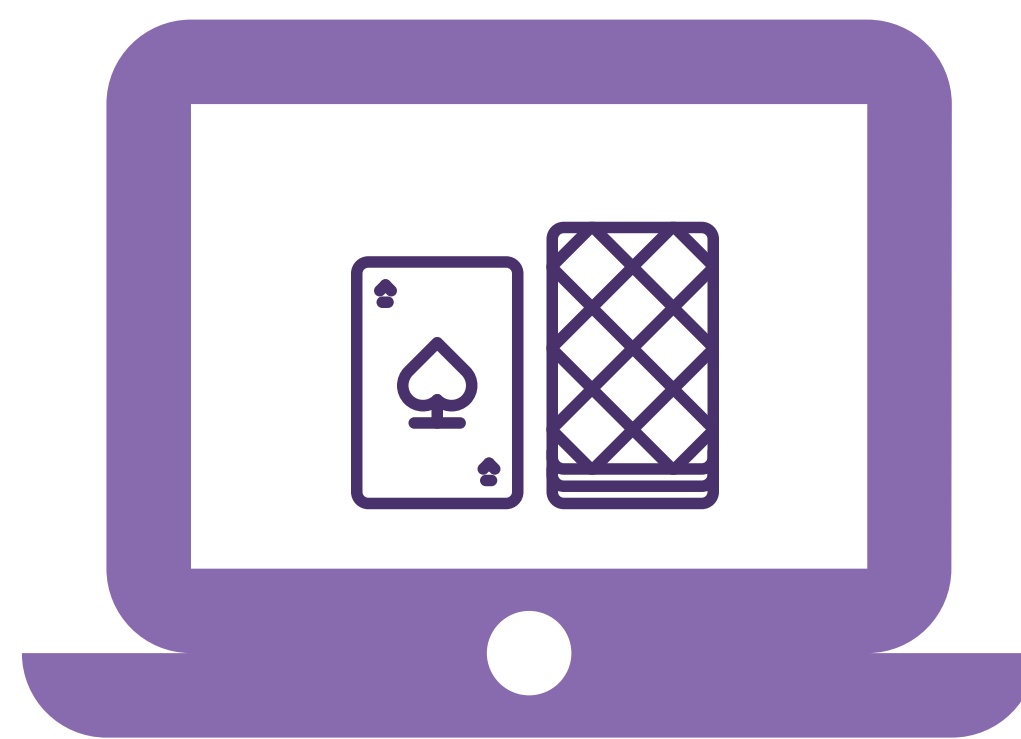
The Deal – A standard 52-card deck is used. Cards are dealt out face down, one-by-one in a grid formation.

To Play – Game play begins with the person to the left of the dealer. This person chooses two cards and flips them over to reveal the number on each. If the numbers match, the player collects their pair and takes another turn. If the cards do not match, the player returns them to the face down position. It is now player 2's turn. Game play continues back-and-forth until all cards have been paired off. The player with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.

Adjust the difficulty of the game by playing by oneself or with others, playing with fewer cards or more cards, or requiring pairs to match both number and colour of suit.

1

CARD GAMES

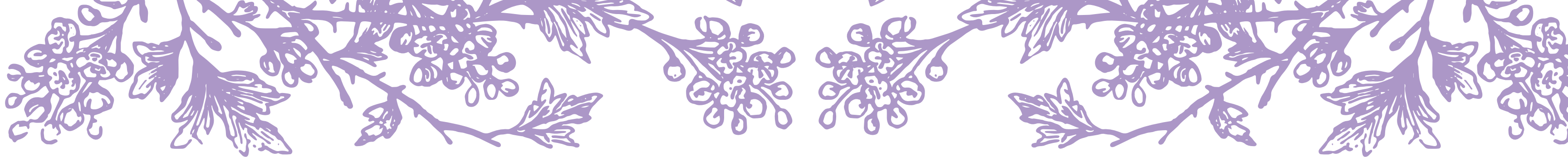


ONLINE CARD GAMES

1+



If you cannot be together in person, you can try online card games with Trickster Cards at <https://www.trickstercards.com>

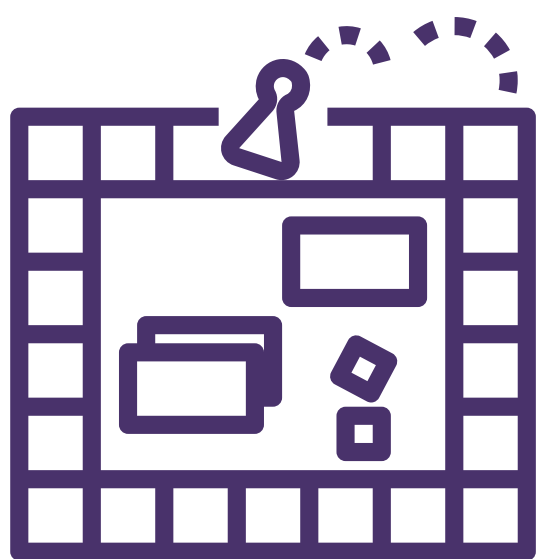


2

BOARD GAMES



Why do it?
Playing board games is a great way to be inclusive of everyone during family time regardless of age and skill level. They involve brain stimulation and cognitive skills. Some games require working memory and concentration, while others require more logical reasoning skills and spatial awareness. In addition, fine motor skills can be maintained while moving game pieces around a board. Regardless of the game chosen, your loved one is sure to enjoy themselves while keeping their brain active and healthy.

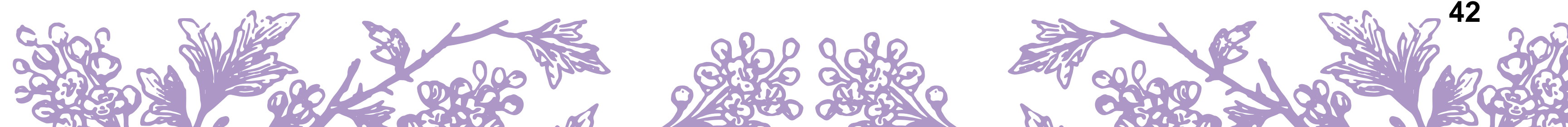


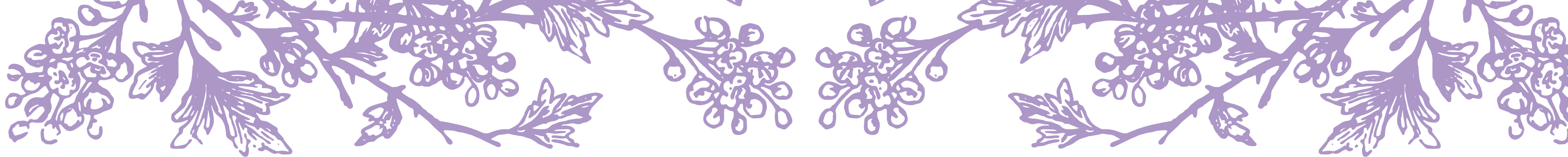
Board games vary in materials needed and complexity. Consult the specific rules provided for each game to learn more.



Safety

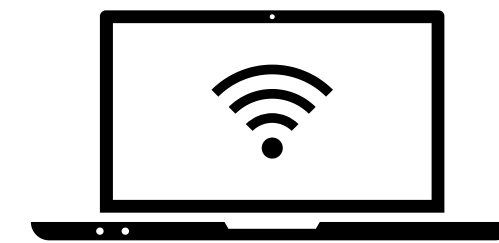
Some board games have small pieces which can be a choking hazard. If playing one of these games, use supervision.





2

BOARD GAMES



Notes



When choosing a board game to play, consider your loved one's personality. If your loved one is more analytical, choose a game that requires more planning and strategy to play.



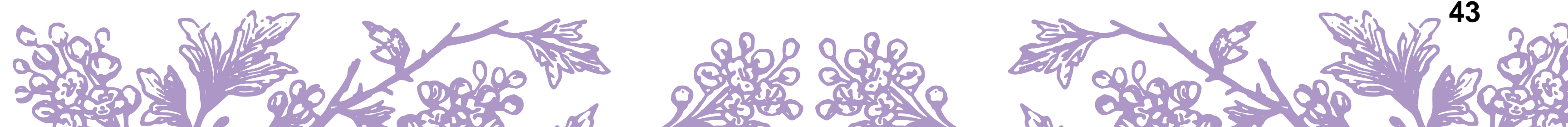
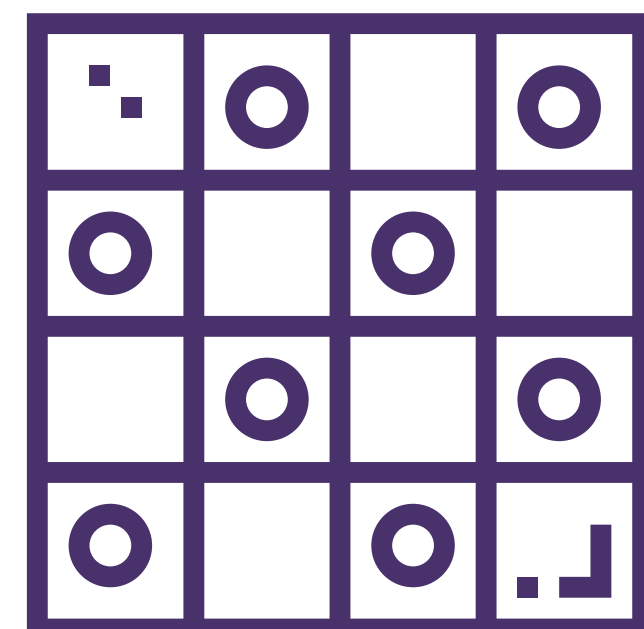
Adjust Difficulty

Use the children's version of board games, such as Scattergories and Bananagrams, which typically have fewer or easier rules to follow and less game pieces.

Increase cognitive and social difficulty by playing with multiple peers.

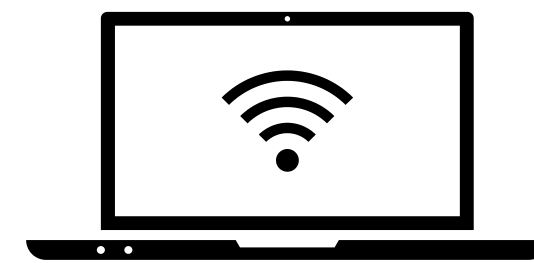


On the next few pages is a list of recommended board games of varying difficulty levels to play with your loved ones!



2

BOARD GAMES

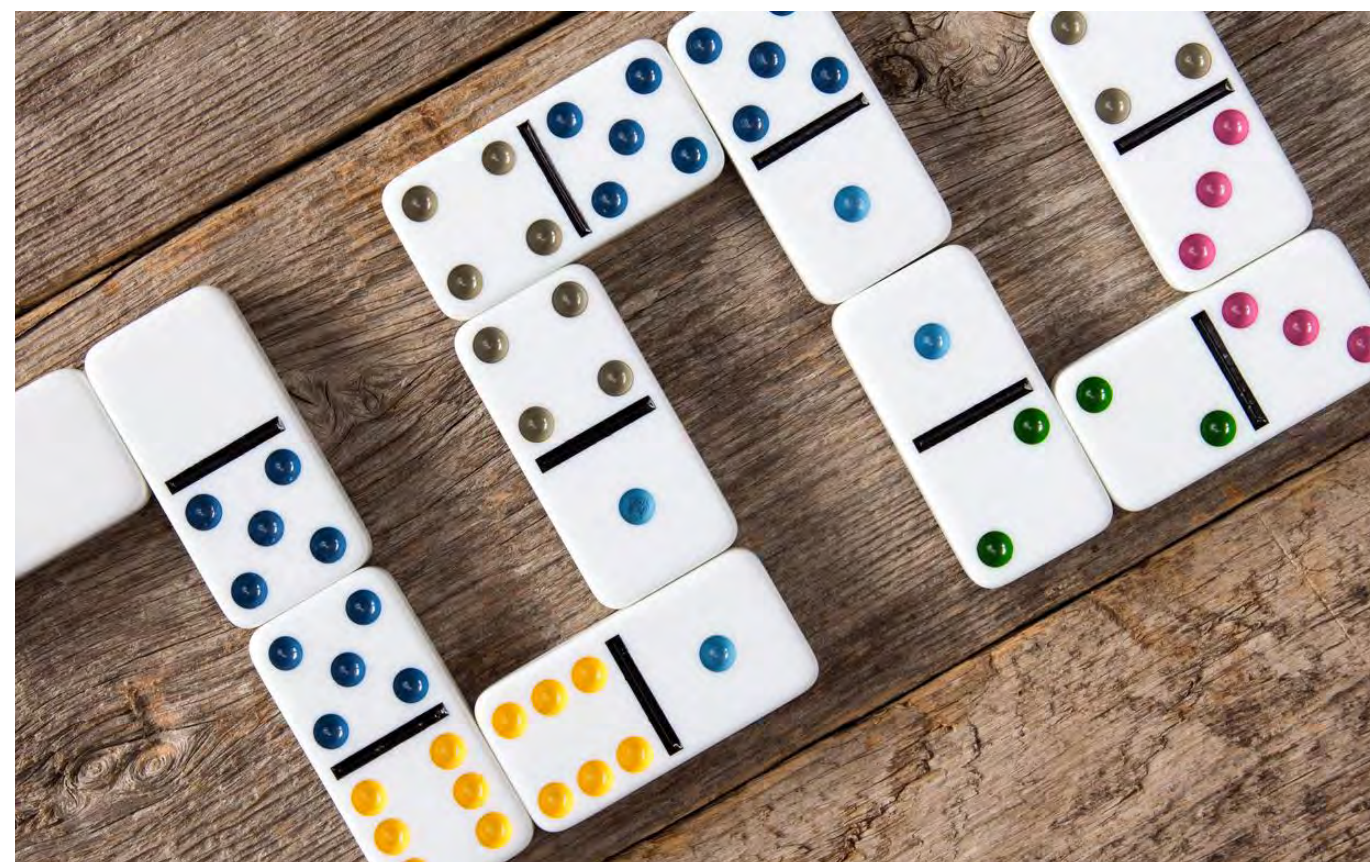


Safety



Some board games have small pieces which can be a choking hazard. If playing one of these games, use supervision.

1 Dominoes is a tile based game for **2-4 players** in which the objective of the game is to play all your dominoes before your opponent by matching up the number of spots on one end of your tile to the corresponding number on a tile already played.



2 Yahtzee is a dice game for **1 or more player(s)** in which the objective of the game is to get the highest score at the end. To score points, players roll 5 dice up to 3 times to make certain combinations as outlined by the Yahtzee game sheet.

3 Checkers is a strategy game for **2 players** in which the objective of the game is to be the last player with their coloured game pieces on the board. This is achieved by moving pieces diagonally around the board, jumping over opponents pieces to capture them and remove them from play.

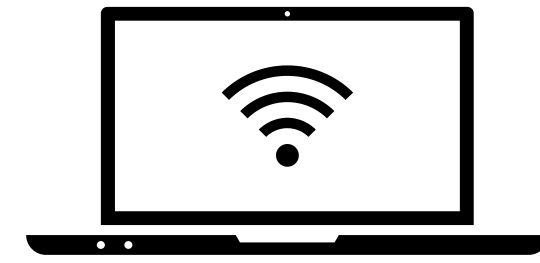
Notes



Some games can be played together even when you cannot physically be together. **Games marked by a computer screen icon can be played remotely** with either one person controlling game play, such as in Tic-Tac-Toe, or by having all players have access to game boards, such as with Battleship. Players can connect using webcams and various platforms such as FaceTime or Zoom. Consider gifting your loved ones with their own copy of games you enjoy playing together to continue playing, even when apart.

2

BOARD GAMES

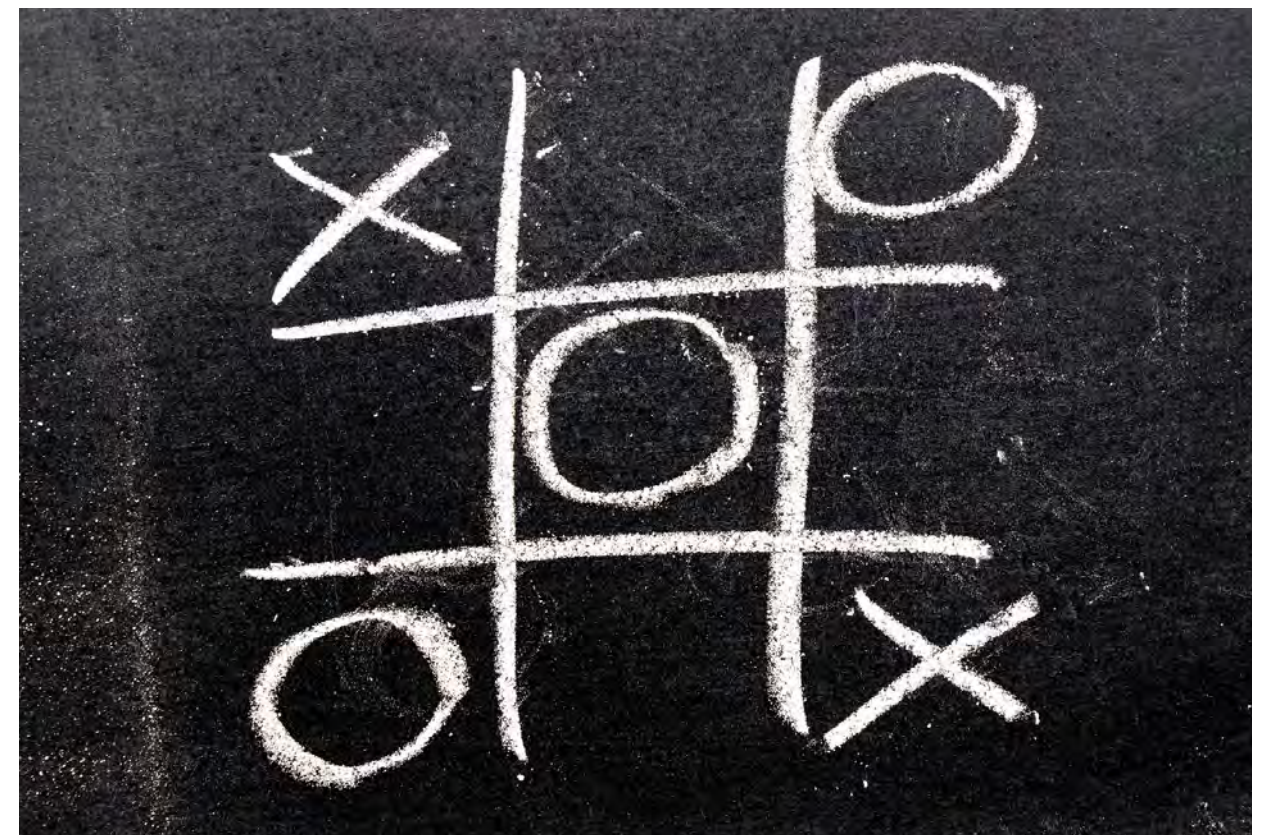


Safety



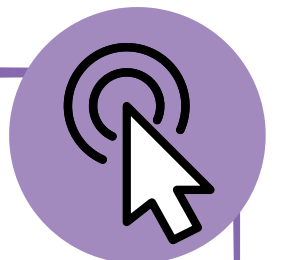
Some board games have small pieces which can be a choking hazard. If playing one of these games, use supervision.

4 Connect 4 is a strategy game for **2 players** in which the objective of the game is to take turns playing your coloured game pieces in attempts to create a 4-piece straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally before your opponent.



5 Tic-Tac-Toe is a strategy game for **2 players** in which players take turns writing either 'X' or 'O' on a 3x3 grid in attempt to create a 3-piece straight line either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally before your opponent. Click the title to play online.

Note



Click on the underlined board game name to access game rules. Check out Ultra Board Games for other board game ideas and rules!

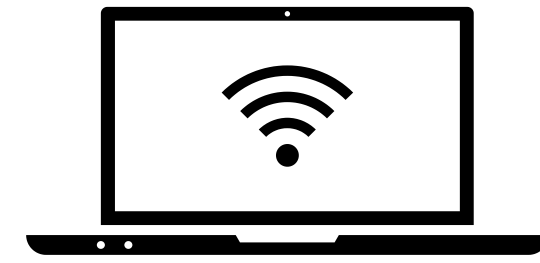


6 Battleship is a strategy based guessing game for **2 players**. Players begin by placing their 5 ships anywhere on their grid, concealed from their opponent. They then take turns guessing the position of each ship by saying the corresponding number and letter on the grid. The first player to 'sink' all their opponent's ships wins.



2

BOARD GAMES



Safety



Some board games have small pieces which can be a choking hazard. If playing one of these games, use supervision.



7 Guess Who? is a guessing game for **2 players** in which each player chooses one player card, then takes turns asking their opponent a "yes" or "no" question to narrow down what player card their opponent has. The first person to guess their opponent's player card wins.



https://www.google.com/search?q=gues+who%3F&sxsrf=ALeKk0Ob6xh2jFu1rPnjqLKvg3tyoZ2MDA:1590644718454&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjdlacR7dXpAhXYIDQIHS6LCKEQ_AUoAXoECCIQAw&biw=1420&bih=710#imgrc=kn_6nR3VjLT4gM

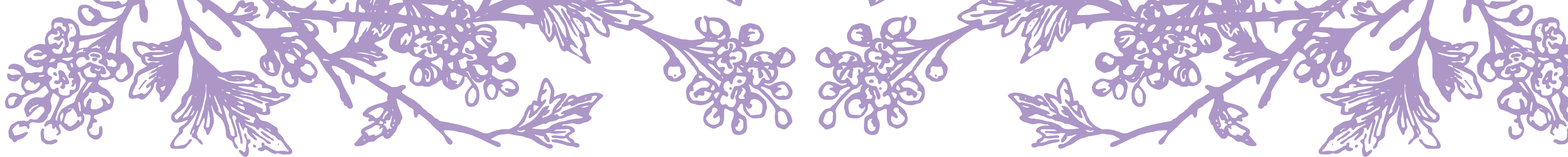


8 Bingo is a game of chance for **2 or more players** in which the objective of the game is to match the numbers called out to their Bingo card to make a straight line. This line is called a 'Bingo' and can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. The first person to get this and call out 'Bingo!' wins.



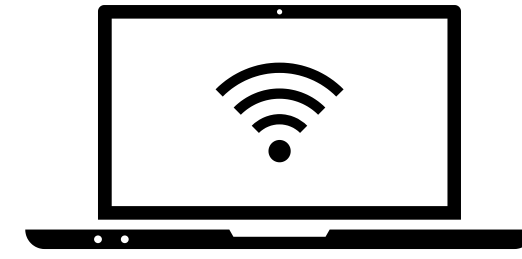
9 Trouble is a chance game for **2-4 players** in which the objective of the game is to successfully move your game pieces around the board based on the numbers rolled on the die. The first person to move all their game pieces around the board wins.





2

BOARD GAMES



Safety



Some board games have small pieces which can be a choking hazard. If playing one of these games, use supervision.

10 Sorry is a chance game for **2-4 players** in which the objective of the game is to move all 4 of your game pieces around the board and into "home" before your opponents. Pieces move around the board according to the number of moves on the cards drawn. The first player to successfully accomplish this, wins.

11 Scattergories is a game for **2-6 players** in which players must think of the most creative answer to their given prompts, starting with a specific letter. The letter is chosen at the beginning of each round and points are given only for unique answers. The player with the most points at the end of the game wins!

Note

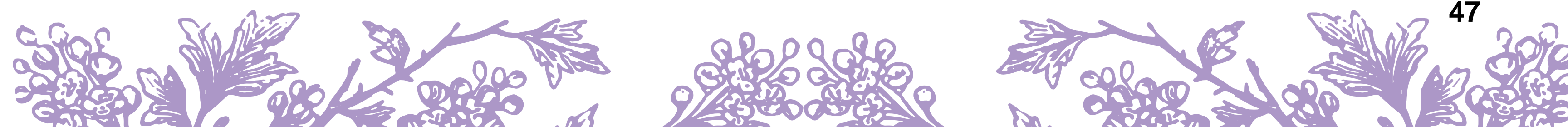
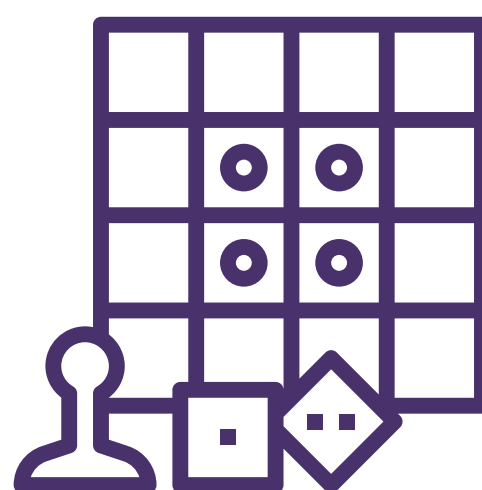
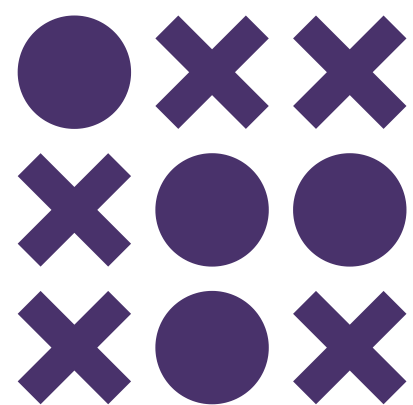
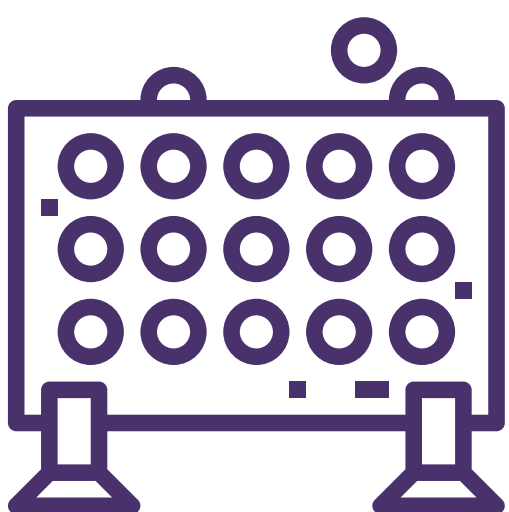


All of these games can be purchased online at Amazon, your local game store, or at a big box store near you such as Walmart!



There are many other games that can be played! Here are some games to try:

- KerPlunk
- Bananagrams
- Cranium
- Scrabble
- Qwirkle
- Chess



3 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

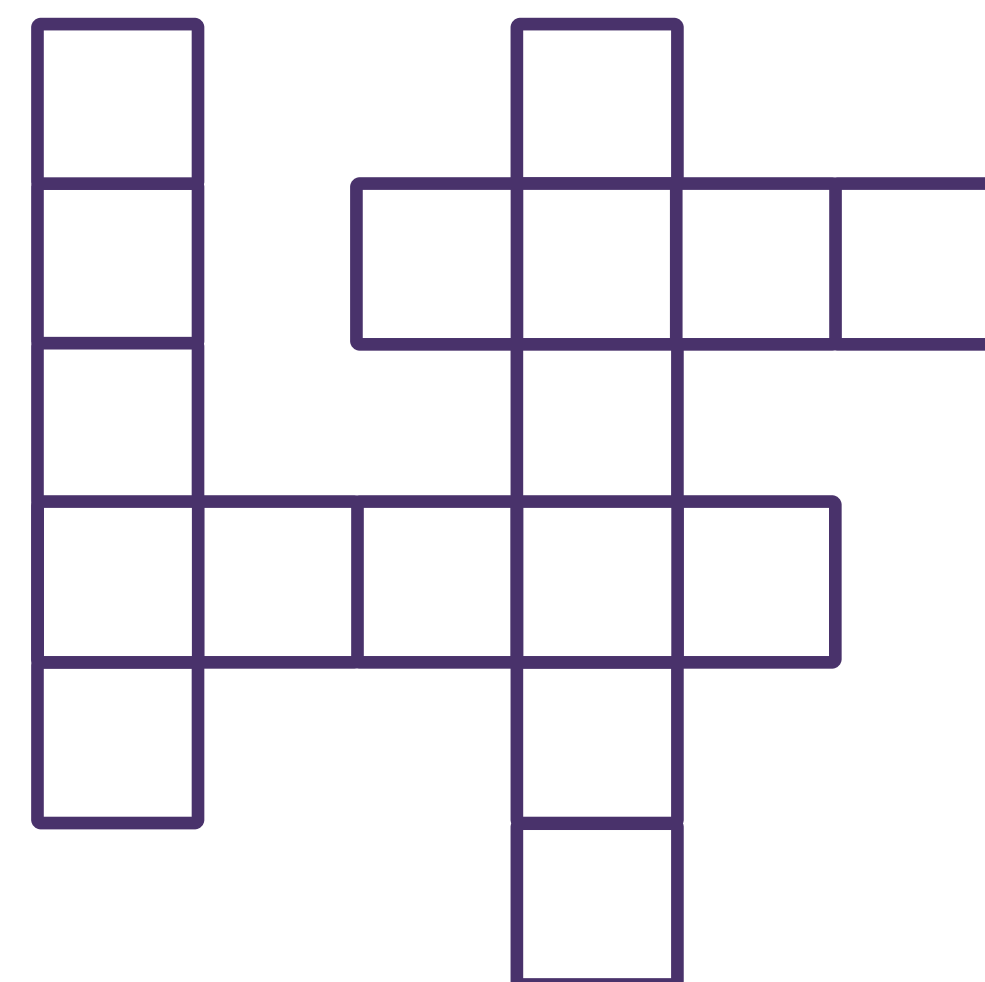


Materials Needed

- Crossword puzzle
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Sturdy chair

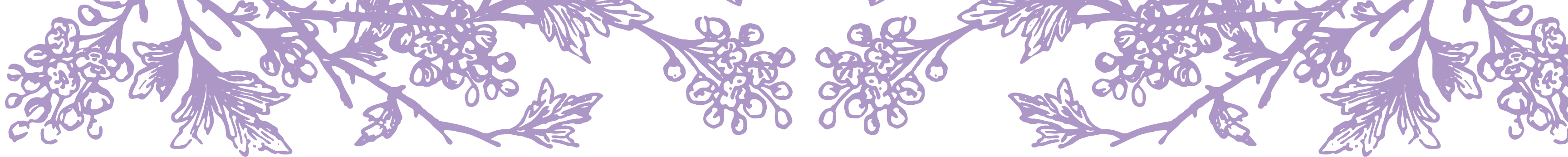
Why do it?

Crossword puzzles are word games with the objective of solving clues with words or phrases to fill in. They are an excellent way to target working memory, word recognition, concentration and attention, and can also provide a sense of accomplishment when the puzzle is completed successfully.



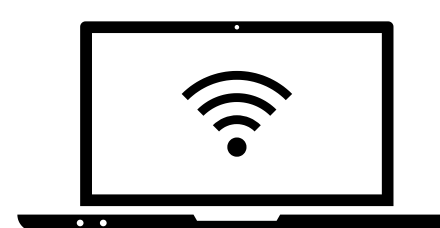
Steps

1. Choose a crossword for your loved one to complete
 - Crossword puzzles are typically themed and vary in difficulty. Choose a theme that matches your loved one's abilities and interest.
2. Sit your loved one in a sturdy chair to complete the puzzle



3

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Cognitive

- Easier clues
- Smaller puzzle/fewer clues
- Themed puzzle clues
- Complete with assistance for answering clues



Adjust Difficulty



- Harder clues
- Larger puzzle
- Non-themed clues
- No assistance for answering clues



Notes

Large print puzzle books are available for those with visual impairments.

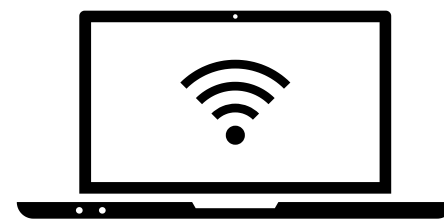
Crossword puzzles can be played both online and on paper. Many websites provide free access to online puzzles, and apps exist for the more tech-savvy individuals who may want to play on the go.

These can also be purchased from local book stores, grocery stores, dollar stores and many box stores.



4

WORD SEARCH

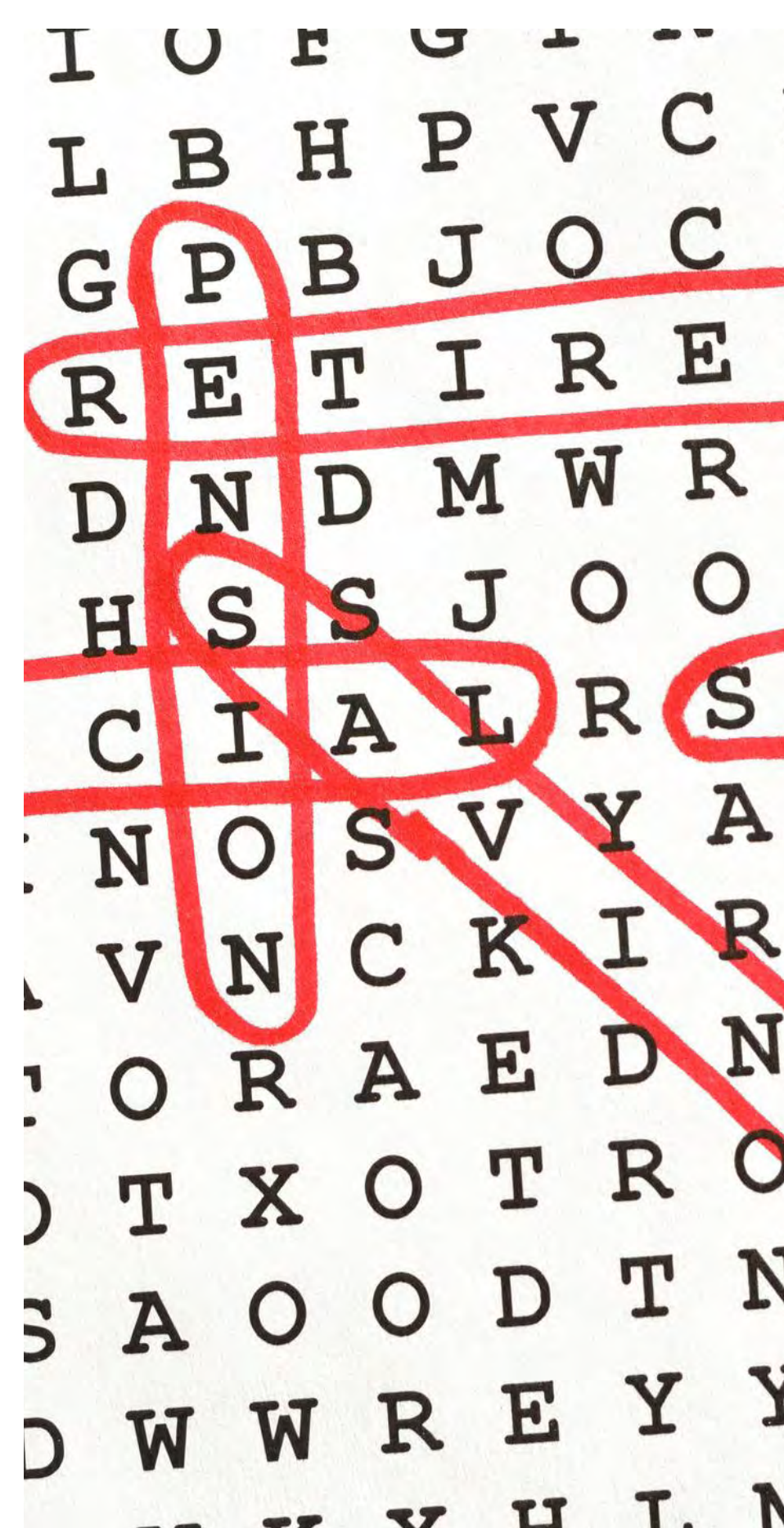


Materials Needed

- Word Search Puzzle
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Table
- Chair

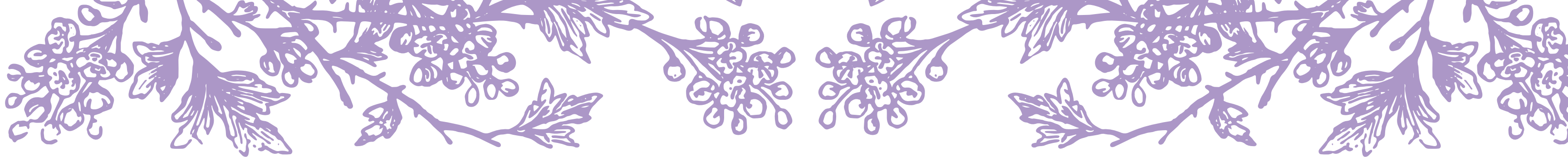
Why do it?

Word search puzzles are an excellent way to target working memory, word recognition, concentration and attention, and can also provide a sense of accomplishment when the puzzle is completed successfully.



Steps

1. Choose a word search for your loved one to complete.
 - Word search puzzles are typically themed and vary in difficulty. Choose one that matches your loved one's abilities and interest.
2. Sit your loved one in a sturdy chair to complete the puzzle.



4

WORD SEARCH

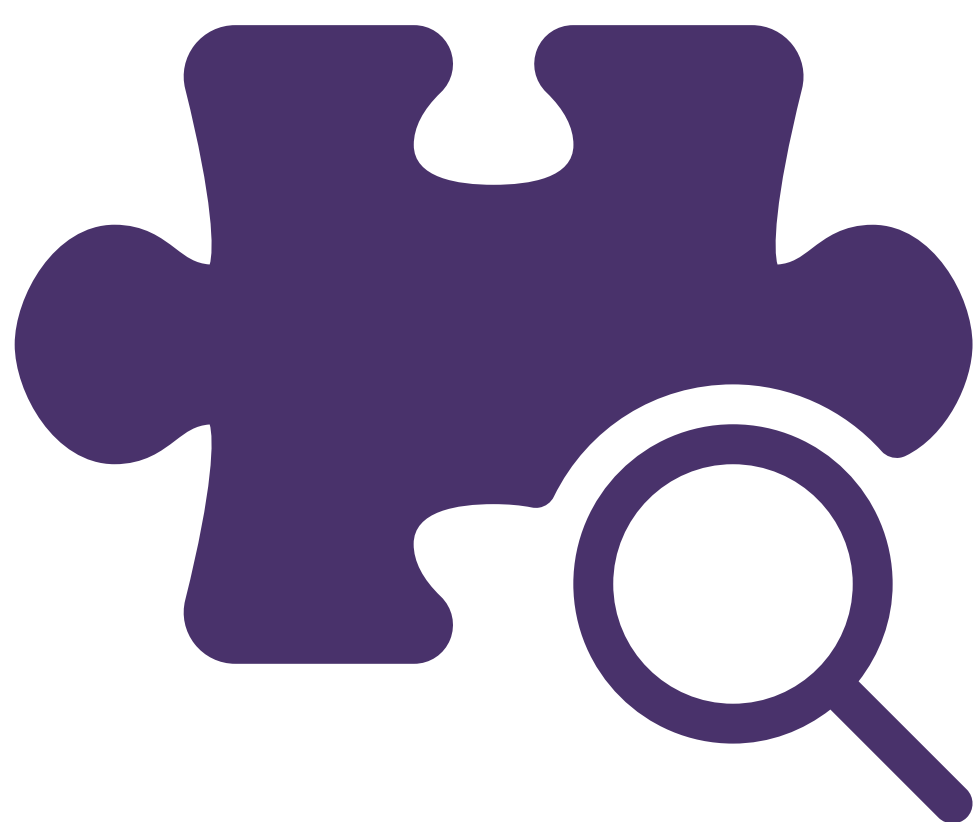
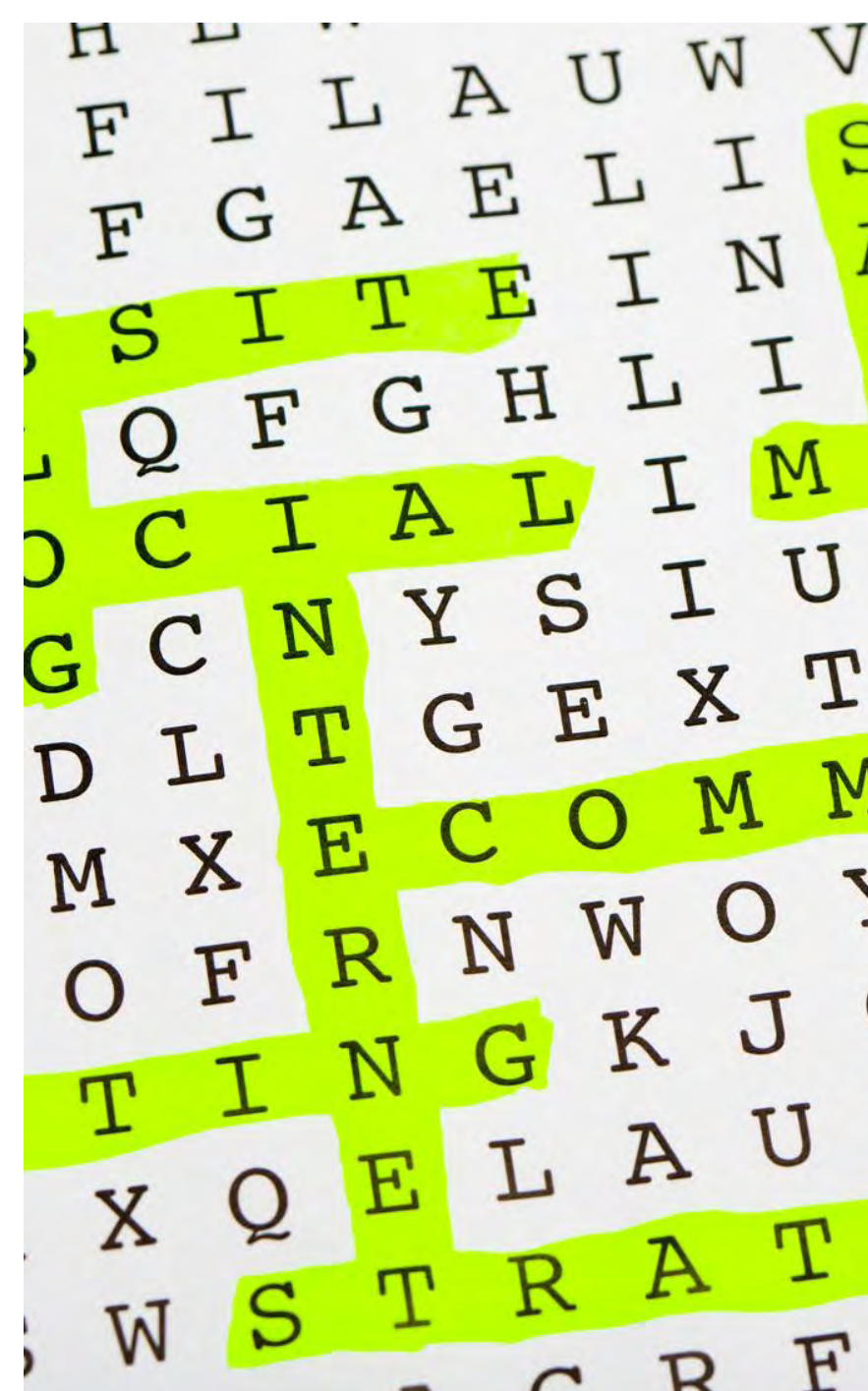


Adjust Difficulty

Cognitive

- Smaller word search grid
- Fewer words to find
- Longer word length
- Orientation of words only up-down and left-right
- Complete with total assistance

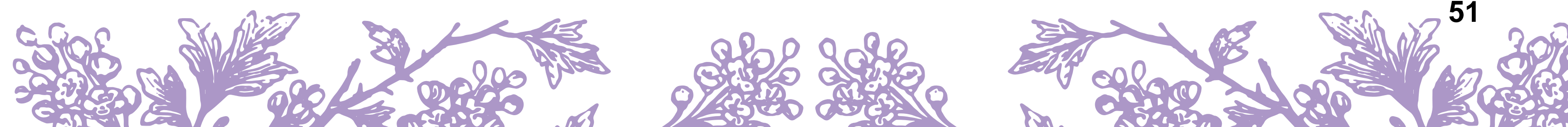
- Large word search grid
- More words to find
- Smaller word length
- Variety of orientation of words to find (i.e. diagonal, backwards)
- Complete independently



Word search puzzles can be played both online and on paper. Many websites provide free access to online puzzles, and apps exist for the more tech-savvy individuals who may want to play on the go. Word search puzzle books can be purchased from local book stores, grocery stores, dollar stores and many box stores.

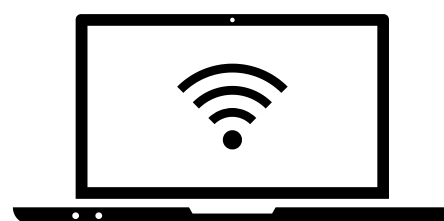


Notes
Large print puzzle books are available for those with visual impairments.



5

SUDOKU



Materials Needed

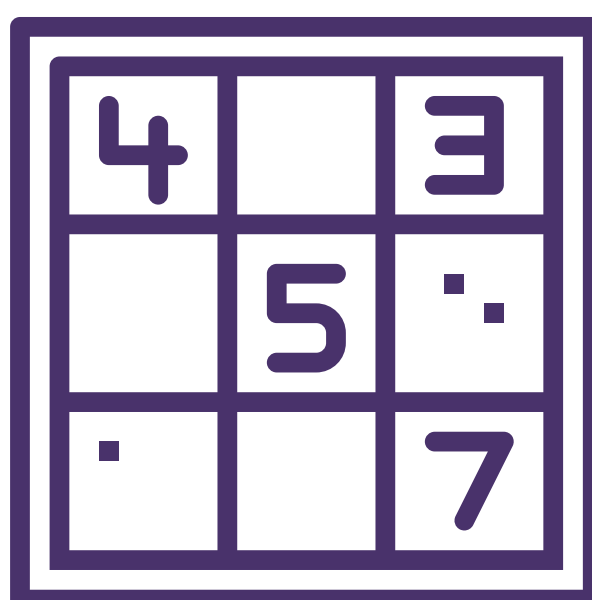
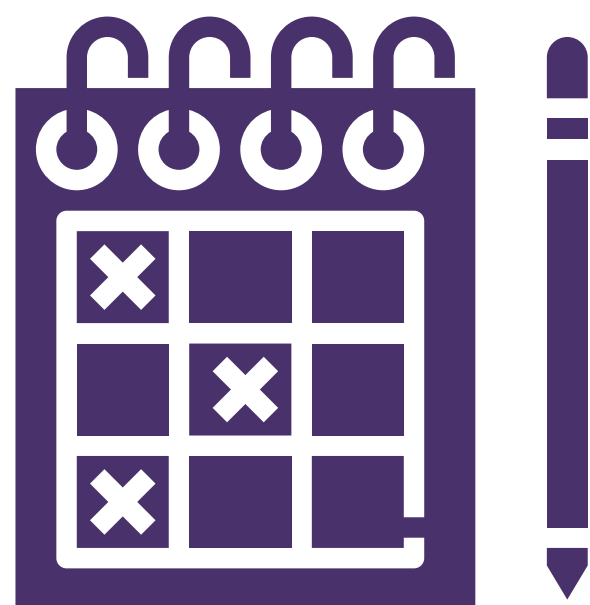
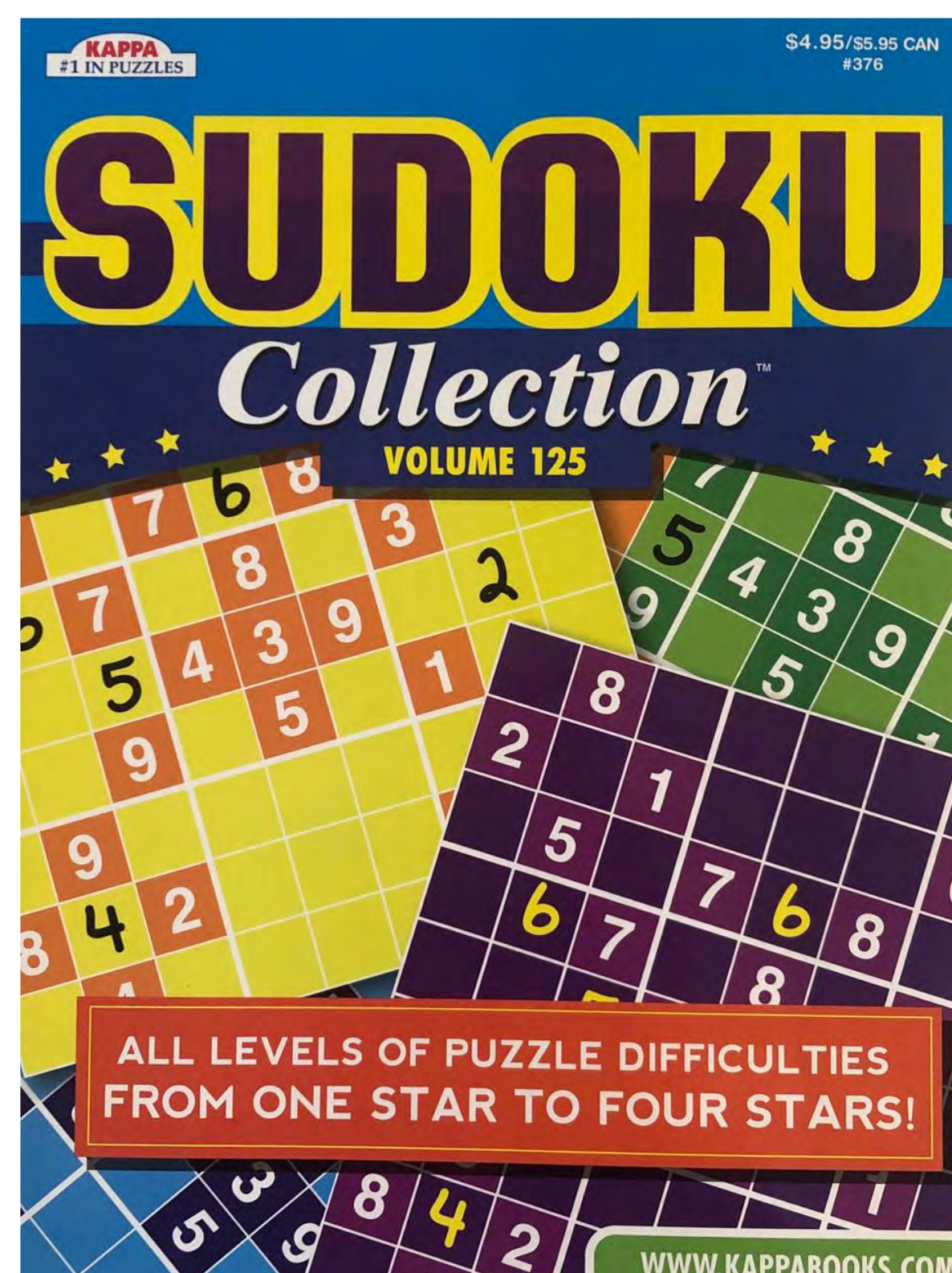
- Sudoku Puzzle
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Table
- Chair

Why do it?

Sudoku is a number puzzle game with the objective of filling in a 9x9 grid with the numbers 1-9 without repeating numbers within the same row, column, or 3x3 grid. It is an excellent way to target logic skills, working memory, concentration and attention and can also provide a sense of accomplishment when the puzzle is completed successfully.

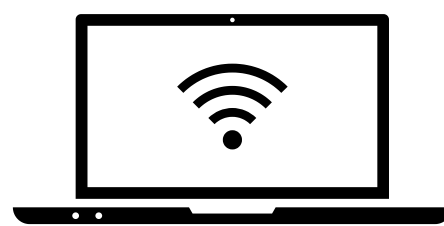
Steps

1. Choose a sudoku puzzle for your loved one to complete.
 - Sudoku puzzles vary in difficulty. Choose one at an appropriate level for your loved one's abilities.
2. Sit your loved one in a sturdy chair to complete the puzzle.



5

SUDOKU



Adjust Difficulty



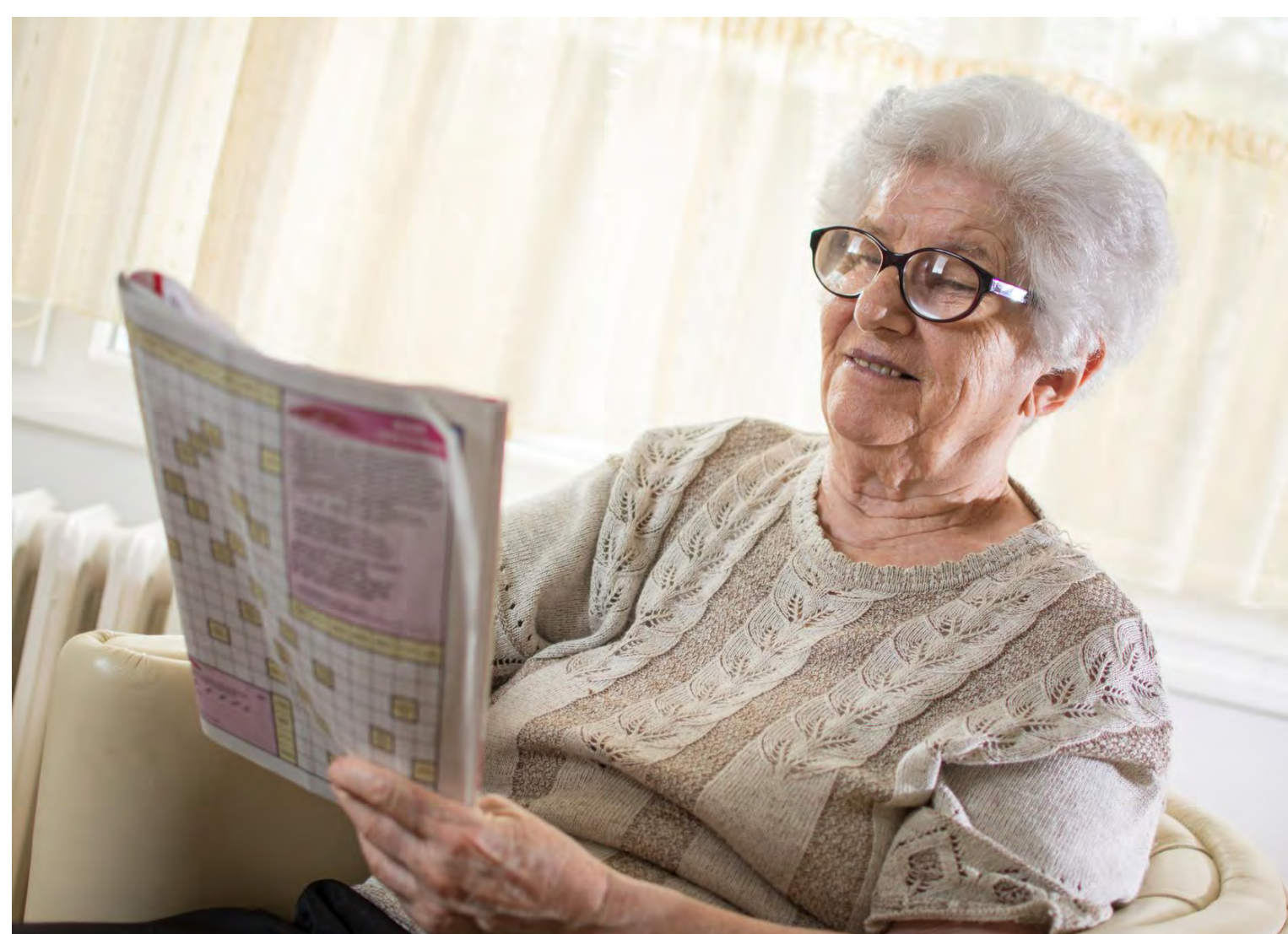
Cognitive



- Easier puzzle
- Play online using puzzles that indicate when the numbers inputted are correct or incorrect
- Complete collaboratively with a peer

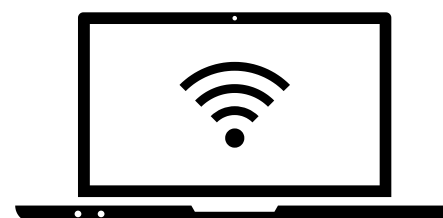
- Harder puzzle
- Try to beat the clock – time yourself and try to complete the puzzle as quickly as you can
- No assistance with puzzle
- Choose a variation on the classic Sudoku puzzle

Sudoku puzzles can be played both online and on paper. Many websites provide free access to online puzzles, and apps exist for the more tech-savvy individuals who may want to play on the go. Word search puzzle books can be purchased from local book stores, grocery stores, dollar stores and many box stores.



6

JIGSAW PUZZLE

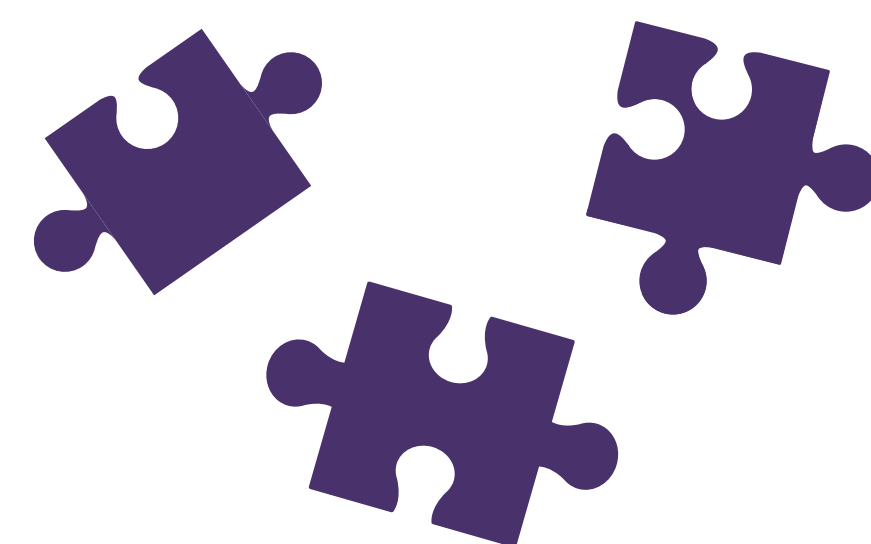


Why do it?

Putting together jigsaw puzzles is an excellent way to stimulate your loved one's creativity. They also target their visuospatial awareness, memory, concentration and attention, and even work on their dexterity and fine motor skills. In addition, a sense of accomplishment is felt when looking at your beautiful finished product.

Materials Needed

- Jigsaw puzzle
- Table or other flat surface



Steps

1. Choose a jigsaw puzzle, keeping in mind your loved one's interests and ability level.
 - Keep in mind that jigsaw puzzles can vary in difficulty both by picture and number of pieces.
2. Begin putting the puzzle together by finding pieces that go together and interlocking them.



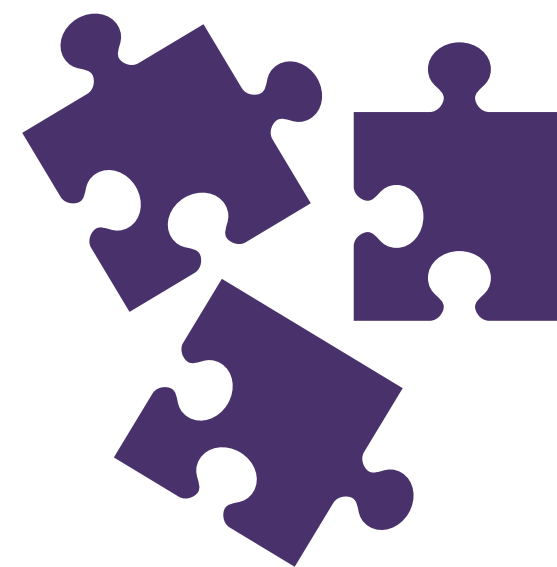
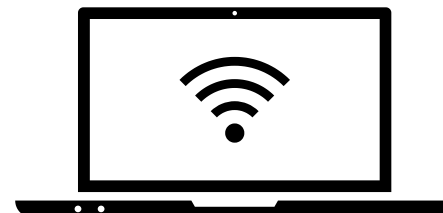
Safety



Jigsaw puzzle pieces are a choking hazard. Please use supervision if pieces are at risk of being ingested.

6

JIGSAW PUZZLE



Adjust Difficulty

Cognitive

- Puzzle with fewer, larger pieces
- Simple image to recreate
- Sort pieces by shape, colour and type prior to beginning
- High colour contrast within puzzle image

- Puzzle with more, smaller pieces
- Complex image to recreate
- Puzzle with oddly cut pieces and outline
- 3D, or double sided puzzles
- Less colour contrast within puzzle image

Puzzles can be completed both in person and online.

Websites exist which allow users to complete a daily puzzle or choose one from their library. Jigsaw puzzles can also be purchased in games stores, box stores or online via websites such as Amazon.



Safety

Jigsaw puzzle pieces are a choking hazard. Please use supervision if pieces are at risk of being ingested.



Notes

Jigsaw puzzles can be personalized. Recreate a familiar landscape, a print of a favourite famous artist, or even create your own personalized jigsaw puzzle using your own photos!



LET'S GET ACTIVE



Exercise has numerous positive benefits throughout all stages of life. Regular physical activity has been associated with a reduction in total mortality among older adults, increased bone health, decreased risk of falls and fractures, improved mood & memory and better sleep (2). As one ages, participation in physical activity may decrease; however there are several ways to keep your loved ones active and healthy. The following section outlines multiple meaningful activities to do with loved ones living with dementia, with modifications to suit all abilities!

Precaution



Please consult your loved one's doctor or physician before beginning any physical activity program or changing their physical activity patterns. This is of particular importance if they have been inactive, or have any underlying medical conditions that may be worsened by exercise. Ensure that your loved one is exercising at a level that is appropriate for them. This means that they should start out slowly and build their way up. Stop if they experience any pain, dizziness, lightheadedness or if they are heavily out of breath.

1

INTERACTIVE WALKING

Why do it?

Walking can help improve one's physical and mental health and well-being. Adding a cognitive element can be beneficial in keeping one's mind sharp.

Materials Needed

- Worksheet associated with the activity
- A clipboard
- The great outdoors!

Steps

1. Pick a route where you would like to walk.
2. Have your loved one select a cognitive game to play during the walk.



Cognitive Games:

• Scavenger Hunt:

- Before you begin your walk, create a list of things you must find on the walk.
 - For example, a leaf, a rock, a brown house, a stop sign, a green light, etc.
- Check off items as you go, or collect them if you would like!

• ABC Walking:

- Go through the alphabet starting with the letter "A" and find things on your walk that begin with that letter; once found, move onto the next letter.
 - For example, A= acorn, airplane, apple tree, B= bike, butterfly, basketball, C= crosswalk, etc.

• Bingo Walking:

- Pick a bingo sheet online (included in links/resources on next page) or create one with things you need to find on your walk.
- As the caregiver, you will carry the sheet and cross off items as your loved one finds them during their walk.

1 INTERACTIVE WALKING



Resources

- Scavenger Hunt Walk:
 - [Resource Sheet](#)
- Bingo Walking:
 - [Resource Sheet 1](#)
 - [Resource Sheet 2](#)



↓ Adjust Difficulty ↑

Physical

- Pick a shorter route.

- Pick a longer route.

Cognitive

- Pick a scavenger hunt with less items.
- Go walking without a game.

- Let your loved one choose where they would like to walk.
- Have your loved one create the list of items for the Scavenger Hunt and Bingo.

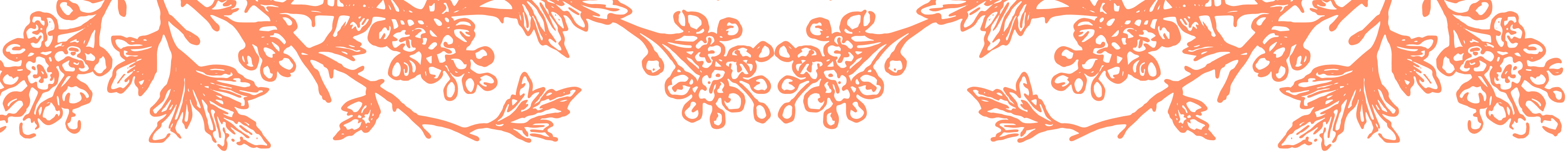


Safety



- As a caregiver, you should do this walk with your loved one to avoid wandering or injury.
- Ensure that your loved one has good mobility and balance for walking. Adapt if needed with cane, walker or wheelchair, as prescribed by health care provider.





2

CHAIR EXERCISES

Why do it?

Doing exercises on a chair is a safe way for someone with mobility or balance issues to increase their heart rate and muscle strength.

Materials Needed

- A sturdy chair with a backrest and no armrests
- Music your loved one likes
- Speaker/computer to play videos
- Optional: light hand-weights or ankle-weights (soup cans also work!)

Steps

1. Have your loved one sit in a chair.
2. Pick a video from one of the links provided on the next page, or create your own workout by combining exercises from the list on the following page and music of their choosing.



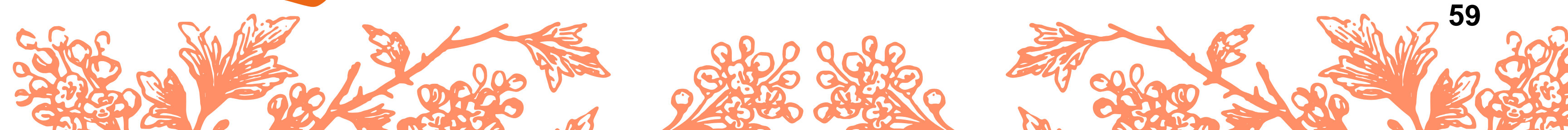
Safety



Ensure that your loved one drinks water throughout. Stop exercises immediately if they become dizzy or light-headed. Be aware of your loved one's balance when choosing exercises.



For video links and exercise ideas, check out the next page!



2

CHAIR EXERCISES



Chair Exercise Ideas

- Marching on the spot
- Twisting the upper body from side to side
- Raising up onto heels and toes
- Raising the arms in front, to the side or towards the ceiling
- Raising the opposite arm and leg
- Bending the legs under the chair
- Clapping under the legs
- Bicycling the legs
- Making circles with the arms
- Practicing moving from sitting to standing

Taken from: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/daily-living/exercise/early-middle-dementia>



Resources

- [Safe Senior Adult Fitness Exercises](#)
- [Chair exercise video demonstration Full body chair exercises for individuals with more mobility and access to hand weights](#)
- [Full body chair exercise video for seniors](#)
- [Chair "tai chi" video](#), can be done with or without the sticks seen in video



Choose harder or easier exercises depending on your loved one's abilities!



3

YOGA

Why do it?

Yoga has positive benefits for both the physical and mental health of individuals with dementia. These benefits include: lowering blood pressure, improved balance and muscle strength, and a reduction in depressive states.

Steps

1. Select a type of yoga that is best suited to your loved one's needs and abilities.
2. Follow the instructions in the links/resources provided.

As a caregiver, you can play a pre-recorded instructional video for your loved one.

- **Chair yoga:** Good for individuals who have reduced mobility and may have trouble sitting on the floor.
- **Mat yoga:** For individuals who can move from sitting to standing with ease, who have good balance and who are able to stand without assistance.

Resources

- Chair:
 - [Video of gentle chair yoga for individuals with dementia](#)
 - [Video of gentle chair yoga for beginners and seniors](#)
- Mat/standing yoga:
 - [Video of yoga for seniors on a mat](#)
 - [7-minute video of standing yoga for seniors](#)

Materials Needed

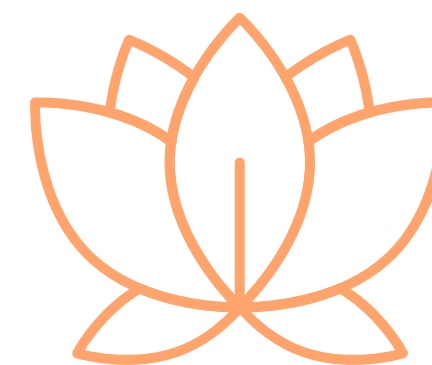
- A chair, yoga mat or a soft surface to sit on
- A speaker for music/instructions
- A TV/computer to play videos



Adjust Difficulty

- Chair yoga
- Shorter yoga sessions

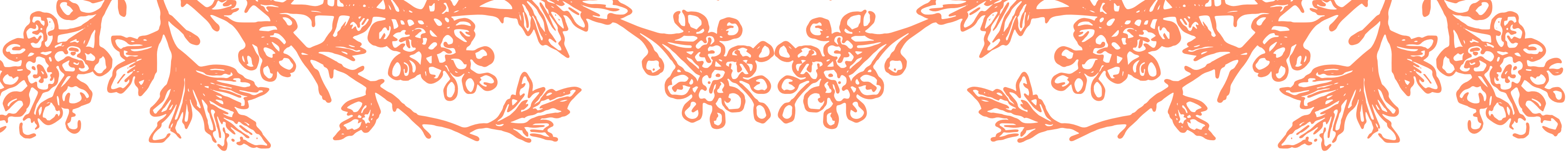
- Mat/standing yoga
- Holding the poses for a longer period of time



Safety

Ensure the space around your loved one is clear and the chair is sturdy.





4

MEDITATION

Materials Needed

- A speaker for music/instructions
- A quiet space
- A comfortable place to sit or lay down.

Why do it?

Meditation helps eliminate negative thoughts, worries and anxiety, and can improve one's sleep.

Steps

1. Have your loved one lie or sit in a comfortable position.
2. Instruct them to close their eyes while you turn on calming music.
3. Instruct them to take deep, controlled breaths, and to focus their attention on their breathing and how their body moves with each inhale and exhale.
4. Let their mind wander!

An option would be to play one of the guided meditation videos provided in the links/resources



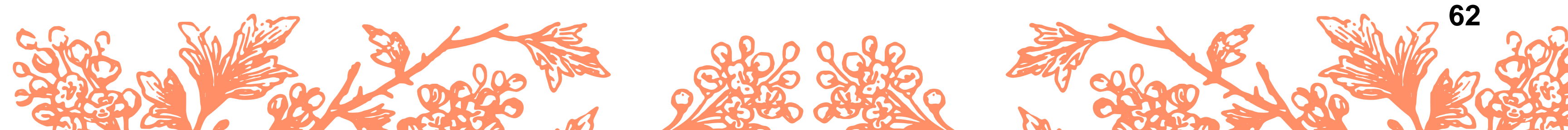
Adjust Difficulty

Play music and have them lay down, close their eyes and breathe.

Choose a video that involves more steps and concentration.

Resources

- [Calming music](#)
- Meditation videos:
 - [5-minute meditation](#)
 - [15-minute meditation](#)
 - [Meditation/body scan](#)— involves increased cognitive ability



5

CORNHOLE

Why do it?

This activity works on one's hand-eye coordination while enjoying the fresh air. Want to make it more fun? Involve the whole family!

Steps

1. Set up the game per the 'How to Play' instructions.
 - Two teams of 2 is ideal, but there can be more or less players per team!
2. Follow the rules and scoring instructions posted below.

How to play:

1. Set up the boards ~27 ft apart and have teams stand next to their own board with their 4 coloured bean bags.
2. Players take turn tossing one bag at a time at their opponents' board (while staying behind the front of their own board), attempting to get the bag in the hole.
3. When all bags have been tossed, points are tallied: 3 pts for a bag **in** the hole, 1 pt for a bag **on** the board
 - First team to 21 pts wins!

Adapted from: <https://www.playcornhole.org/pages/rules>

Materials Needed

This activity should be done outside on the grass!

- Store-bought cornhole game set
 - [Amazon](#)
 - [Walmart](#)
- Make your own game set! – involves good wood-working skills
 - [Option 1](#)
 - [Option 2](#)



Adjust Difficulty



- Have your loved-one sit in a chair, with room to swing their arm.
- Move Cornhole boards closer together.

- Have your loved one walk to pick up the bean bags.
- Play multiple rounds.

Safety



Ensure that the surface of the grass is smooth and clear of other objects.

6

BOCCE BALL

Why do it?

Bocce ball helps improve one's flexibility, mobility and strategic planning while in an outdoor and social environment.

Steps

1. Make two teams. 2 people per team is ideal, but can be more or less!
 - Both teams should stand on the same side.
2. Follow the rules and scoring instructions on the next page.



Materials Needed

Bocce ball should be played outside on the grass!

- A bocce ball set:
 - [Amazon](#)
- Makeshift bocce ball:
 - A golf ball
 - 8 tennis balls/lacrosse balls (depending on how heavy you want them and what material you have)
 - Paint to paint the balls 2 different colours (ex. 4 blue, 4 red)



Safety



Ensure that the surface of the grass is smooth and clear of other objects.

6

BOCCE BALL



Rules

- Separate into two teams of 2 players each. Do a coin toss to determine who starts.
- The first team starts by tossing the jack (small ball/golf ball).
Note: all balls must be thrown underhand.
- The same team throws the first bocce ball (bigger ball/tennis ball), with the aim of trying to get the bocce ball as close to the jack as possible.
- Then, one player from the opposite team throws their bocce ball.
- The team that is furthest away from the jack gets to throw their remaining 3 balls, with the players on that team alternating who throws.
- Then the team who hasn't completed their throws goes.

Scoring

- Measure which team's bocce is closest to the jack.
- The team with the closest ball to the jack wins and gets 1 point; the winning team gets an additional point for every ball that is closer than the opposing team's closest ball.
- Continue to play until one team reaches 12 points.

Adapted from: <https://www.backyardbocce.com/basic-rules/>

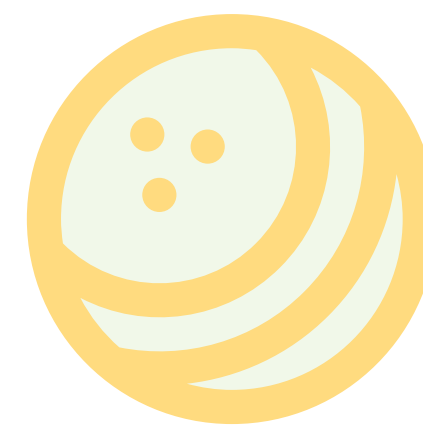


Adjust Difficulty



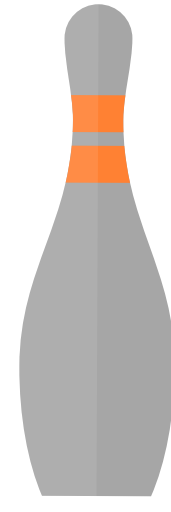
- Have your loved one throw the balls sitting down in a chair.
- Do not throw the jack as far away.

- Have your loved one go and collect the balls.
- Use heavier balls.



7

TABLE BOWLING



Why do it?

This fun game works on hand-eye coordination and can be done sitting or standing. It is great for individuals who used to go to the bowling alley!

Steps

1. Set up 10 half-filled water bottles at the end of the table as you would bowling pins.
2. Stand at the opposite end of the table and roll the bowling ball (lacrosse or tennis ball) to knock over the water bottles.
3. Each player gets 2 tries at bowling the ball, then the score is tallied.
4. The pins are reset and the other player bowls.

How to score:

- Strike: knock down all 10 pins in the first bowl = 10 pts.
- Spare: knock down all 10 pins in two bowls = 10 pts.
- Otherwise, the number of pins you knock over in your two turns is the amount of points you get.
 - E.g. 2 pins knocked over on the first bowl and 3 pins knocked over on the second = 5 pts total that turn.
- Keep going until one player reaches 100 points, or any amount that you determine!

Note: these rules are simplified and if you would like, you can use real bowling rules provided in [link](#)

Adapted from: <http://www.fryes4fun.com/Bowling/scoring.htm>

Materials Needed

- 10 plastic water bottles
- 1 heavier ball (e.g. lacrosse ball, baseball, tennis ball)
- A long table, or a clear smooth floor



To make the activity more creative, paint the water bottles!



<https://images.app.goo.gl/a4fza5yHvyZq5MZt6>

Adjust Difficulty

- Have your loved one do this sitting down.
- Put less water in the bottles so that they are easier to knock over.
- Use a bigger and lighter ball.

- Add more water bottles.
- Add more water to the water bottles, which will require a stronger throw.
- Use a smaller and heavier ball.

8

PLANT A FLOWER

Why do it?

Caring for a plant provides your loved one with a sense of accomplishment and helps improve one's memory. This is an activity that can be done both inside and outside.

Steps

1. Collect the materials needed.
2. Have your loved one fill their pot with soil
3. Create small holes in the soil in the middle of the pot and add seeds or flowers to them.
4. Cover up seeds with soil, then water and place it in an appropriate location (based on its growing needs).
5. Remember to water the plant as it grows!



Materials Needed

- Flower pot
- Soil
- Seeds/plants
- Water/watering can
- Gardening gloves
- Small shovel



To add an element of creativity, paint the pots before you plant the flowers!



Adjust Difficulty

Safety



Always use supervision to ensure that none of the materials are ingested as fertilizer may be toxic. Always perform this activity at a table with sturdy chairs.

Help your loved one put the soil in the pot and water the plants.

Have your loved one choose the plants (either online or at the garden center).

9

OUTDOOR GARDENING

Why do it?

Gardening is a great way to stay physically active, enhance your mental ability, be creative and set goals!



Steps

Gardening can be done in a variety of ways such as:

- Planting flowers in a garden bed
- Planting a vegetable garden
- Weeding a flower bed
- Clipping hedges
- Watering plants



Notes

- Choose easy-to-grow plants.
- Place stools/chairs outside for your loved one to sit on when they need a break.
- Plant in raised plant boxes whenever possible.
- Ensure your loved one is wearing proper sun protection.
- If they are working in a kneeling position, have them wear knee-pads or put a soft towel underneath.

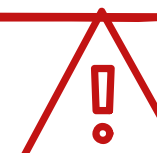


Materials Needed

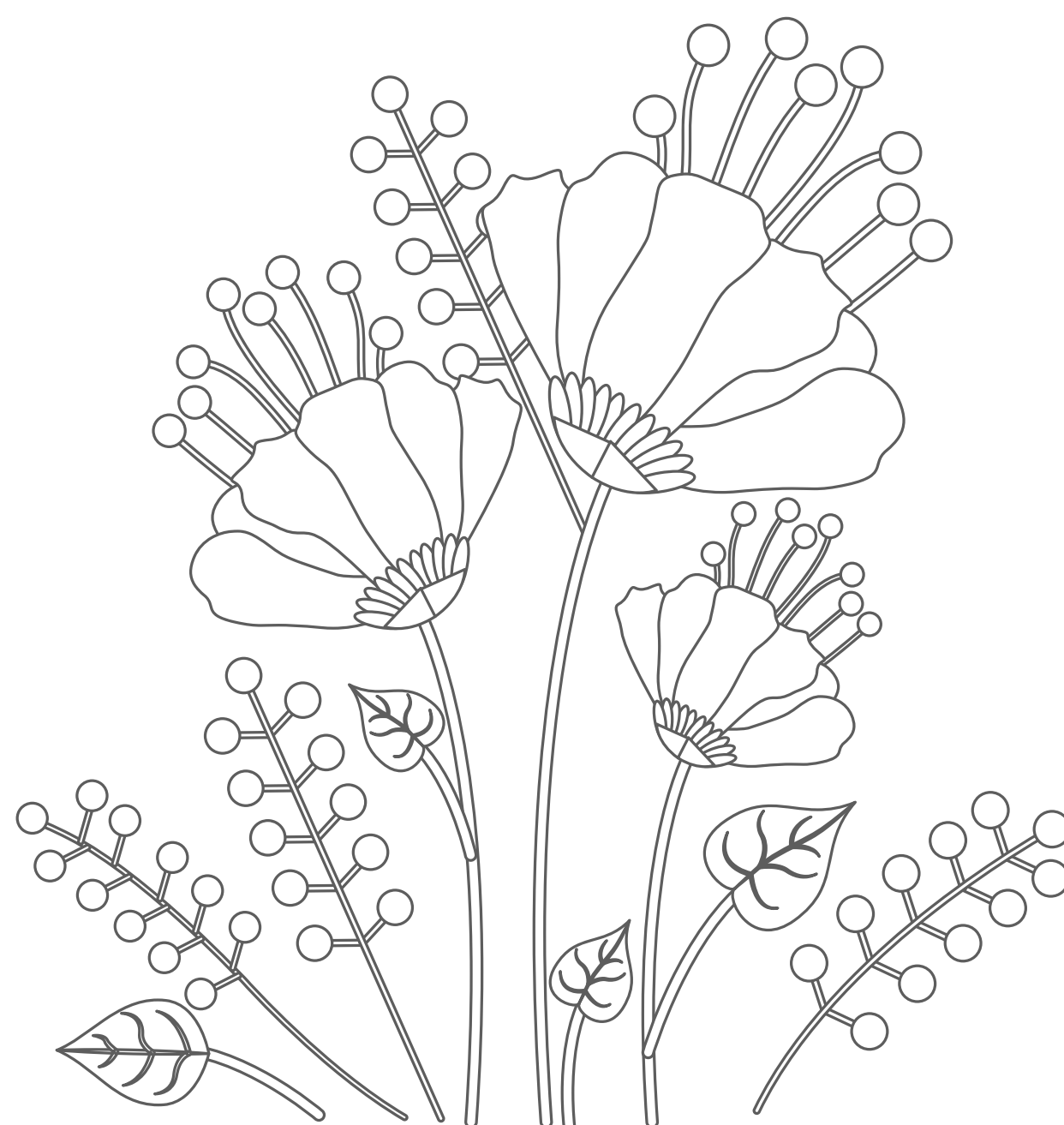
- Garden bed
- Soil
- Seeds/plants
- Water/watering can
- Weed puller
- Clippers
- Gardening gloves
- Small shovel

Safety

Consider your loved one's physical and cognitive abilities when using a weed puller, clippers or any other sharp objects, as use may cause injury.



STIMULATE YOUR SENSES



Communication remains possible in all stages of dementia; however, it can become increasingly challenging as the disease progresses. Although many focus primarily on verbal communication, it is essential to stimulate all senses when engaging with your loved one. This becomes especially important in the later stages of dementia when speech may be limited or absent. The following activities aim to stimulate touch, sound, smell and sight. You can find activities related to taste in the "Creating and Crafting" section.

1

MAKE A SCENT KIT

Why do it?

Stimulate your loved one's sense of smell with familiar scents.

Steps

1. Place several drops of essential oil on a cotton ball or cotton pad.
2. Place the cotton ball or pad in a spice jar and secure the lid.
3. Repeat the process until you have an assortment of filled jars.
4. Place the jars in a shoebox or container to store.

Materials Needed

- Different scents:
- Essential oils
 - Tea bags
 - Coffee beans
 - Perfume
 - Whole Spices
 - Spice jars
 - Cotton balls or cotton pads
 - Shoebox, basket or container



Adjust Difficulty

Make the kit for your loved one and help them open the jars.

Have your loved one help pick out scents they like and fill the jars.

Safety

Consider any allergies or sensitivities your loved one may have, as some synthetic perfumes can provoke these. You may want to use spice jars with perforated lids so the contents cannot fall out or be swallowed.

Notes

Over time, the smell of the oils will fade and you will need to add a few more drops.

Try to select spices that will be comforting or familiar to your loved one. You could use whole spices, coffee beans, tea bags, or perfumes (sprayed onto a cotton ball).

* Activity idea from the Alzheimer's Association



Additional Resources

You can find essential oils at health food stores or online:

- [Amazon](#)
- [Saje Natural Wellness](#)



2

MAKE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Why do it?

Engage your loved one's sense of sight and smell with brightly coloured, fragrant flowers that make a lovely addition to their room.

Materials Needed

- A variety of fresh flowers and greenery
- A vase (you may need more than one)
- Shears or scissors
- Water
- Optional: ribbons or other decorative items

Steps

1. Lay out the flowers and greenery on a table and have your loved one select which ones they want to use.
2. Spend time smelling the flowers and talking about the varieties and colours.
3. Fill a vase with water.
4. Snip the ends of the flowers off and have your loved one arrange them in the vase. Adjust the height as needed.
 - Optional: add a ribbon or other decorative items.
5. Put the vase in a visible spot.
6. Repeat the process to make more bouquets if you have extra materials.



Adjust Difficulty



If your loved one has a favourite flower or colour, try to incorporate it. If you do not have access to fresh flowers, you could use artificial ones instead.

Safety



Be aware of any allergies your loved one may have to certain flowers. Be careful of the shears/scissors and only allow your loved one to do the cutting if you feel that they will be safe or by using safety scissors.

Cut and arrange the flowers yourself while gathering your loved one's input on what flowers to use and where to place them.

Assist your loved one to pick out the flowers at a shop or from a garden.

3

MAKE A SHAKER

Why do it?

Engage your loved one's sense of hearing by creating a homemade instrument, such as a shaker, that they can use later for a fun way to play along to music.

Steps

1. Remove the lids from the water bottles.
2. Assist your loved one to fill each water bottle part way up with the rice, beans, lentils, etc. Use a funnel to make this easier.
3. Secure the lids tightly on the bottles and shake to test the sound.
4. Remove or add materials to the bottles as desired.
 - Optional: decorate the outside of the bottles with tape, paint and string.
5. Put on some music and shake the shakers!

Materials Needed

- Empty plastic water bottles
- Hard objects such as dried beans, dried lentil lentils, plastic beads, rice
- Music playing device
- Colourful tape, paints, string (optional)
- Funnel (optional)



Adjust Difficulty

Make the shakers for your loved one ahead of time so they are ready for use!

Try shaking to a specific beat in the song.

Additional Resources

A video example of how to make a shaker:

- [Link to video](#)

There are lots of other kinds of instruments you can make



- [Link to examples of other instruments](#)

Safety



Keep an eye on the dried beans and other small objects as they could be a choking hazard.

When choosing music for your loved one to play along to, you may want to think about music from a decade that your loved one enjoys – maybe something from their teenage years!



4

MAKE A FIDGET BLANKET

Why do it?

A fidget blanket is a blanket with all kinds of bits and bobs sewn that can provide comfort and give busy hands something to do.

Materials Needed

- A piece of material (a fleece blanket, an apron, a pillow, felt, towel)
- Needle
- Thread

Bits and bobs, such as:

- Buttons
- Belts
- Fringe
- Bells
- Fabrics of different textures
- A tie

Steps

1. Cut your piece of fabric to a desired size if necessary. It should be able to lay comfortably on your loved one's lap.
2. Sew on all your bits and bobs onto one side of the material.
3. Lay the fidget blanket onto your loved one's lap.
 - Show them and demonstrate all the things to fiddle with!

Additional Resources

* Activity adapted from [Golden Carers- How to Make Sensory Blankets For Dementia Care](#)

You can purchase fidget blankets online: [Purchase link](#)



https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/A1J0gHegbTL._SL1500_.jpg

Adjust Difficulty

Your loved one could feel all the materials to see which ones they like.

Your loved one could help you with some of the sewing.



Safety

Ensure that all the bits are sewn on securely to ensure that they cannot be pulled off and swallowed.

5

MAKE A CITRUS GARLAND



Materials Needed

- Citrus fruit (fruit with thin peels will be easier to work with)
- String or twine
- Cookie cutters
- Wooden skewer
- Wax or parchment paper
- A few heavy books

Why do it?

A citrus garland can be used as a decoration for the holidays and gives off a wonderful scent.

Steps

1. Peel the citrus fruit carefully, keeping the peel in large pieces.
2. Use cookie cutters to punch out shapes from the peel.
3. Use the wooden skewer to punch out a hole in each shape.
4. String each shape and spread them apart so they form a garland.
5. Place the garland between 2 pieces of wax or parchment paper and place heavy books on top – this will ensure the garland dries flat.
6. Dry until the garland is no longer sticky, then hang and enjoy!



<https://homedesigns99.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Orange-Peel-Star-Garland.jpg>

Adjust Difficulty

Help your loved one to peel the fruit. Have them sit beside you as you cut the shapes so they can enjoy the smell.

Have your loved one do the peeling and punch out the shapes.

Safety



Be careful with sharp objects such as wooden skewers. You may want to punch the holes for your loved one. Big pieces of citrus peel can also be a choking hazard.



Include the grandchildren in this activity by having them create their own garlands to add a festive scent to their rooms!

*Activity adapted from [A Daily Something](#)



6 MAKE CINNAMON ORNAMENTS



Why do it?

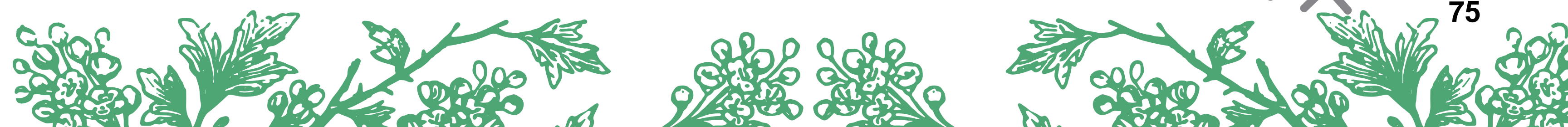
Cinnamon ornaments give off a lovely scent and they make great gifts. Hang them up in your loved one's room so they can enjoy the scent all day long.

Materials Needed

- 0.5 cup applesauce
- 1 cups ground cinnamon
- 0.5 cups glue
- Mixing bowl
- Spoon
- Cookie cutters
- Parchment paper
- Rolling pin
- Plastic wrap
- Straw
- String or ribbon
- Baking sheet
- Oven

Steps

1. Place the applesauce, cinnamon and glue into the mixing bowl and combine until the mixture forms a ball.
2. Wrap the ball in plastic wrap and let it sit for 1 hour at room temperature.
3. Preheat oven to 200°F and line the baking sheet with parchment paper.
4. Place the ball between 2 large pieces of plastic wrap and roll out to about 1/4 inch thickness.
5. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes.
6. Place the ornaments on the prepared baking sheet (they will not spread so can be placed close to one another).
7. Use the straw to punch out a hole on each ornament (this could be at the top or two in the middle depending on how you'd like to hang them).
8. Bake for 2 hours, flipping them half way, or until the ornaments are hard.
9. Let them dry fully at room temperature.
10. Pass the ribbon through the hole(s) and tie to finish.





6

MAKE CINNAMON ORNAMENTS



Adjust Difficulty



Physical

- Have your loved one help mix the dough with their hands to form a ball.
- Have your loved one roll out the dough and cut out the shapes.
- Have your loved one string the ornaments or tie ribbon to hang.



Notes

The ornaments will retain their smell longer if they are stored in an airtight container after the holidays.

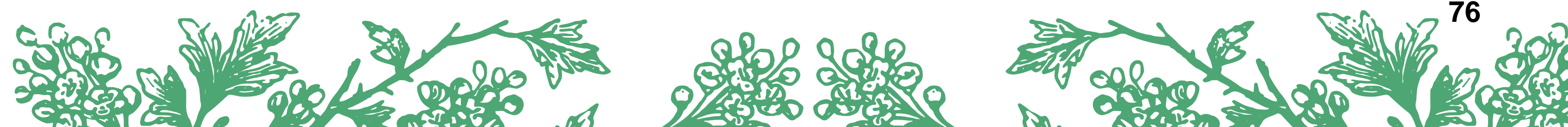
* activity adapted from [Kitchn- How to Make Cinnamon Dough Ornaments](#)



Safety



The ornaments are not edible as glue may be harmful if swallowed. When baking the ornaments, use oven mitts and do not touch hot surfaces.





7

LISTEN TO SOMETHING NEW:

Audiobooks

Podcasts

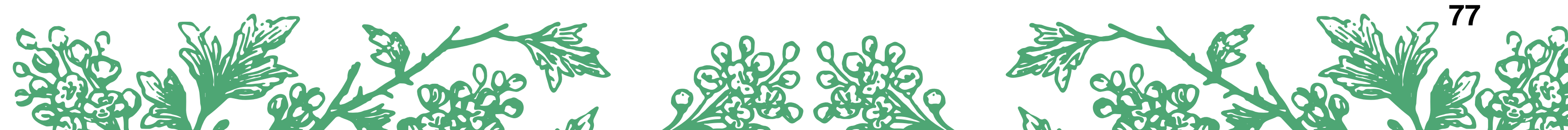
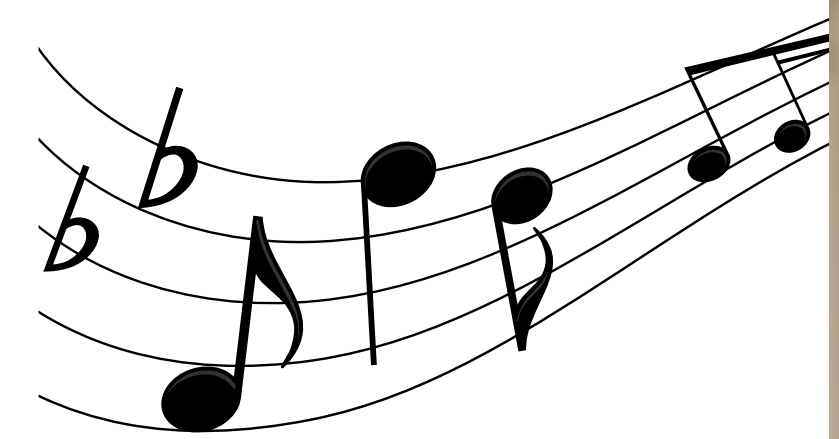
Music

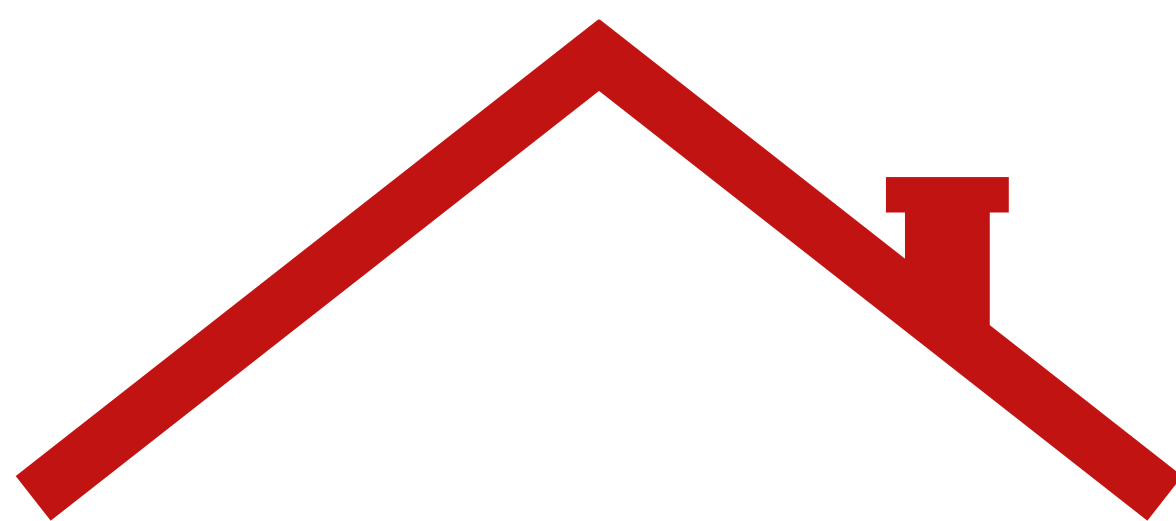
Stories



Animal sounds (such as bird chirping)

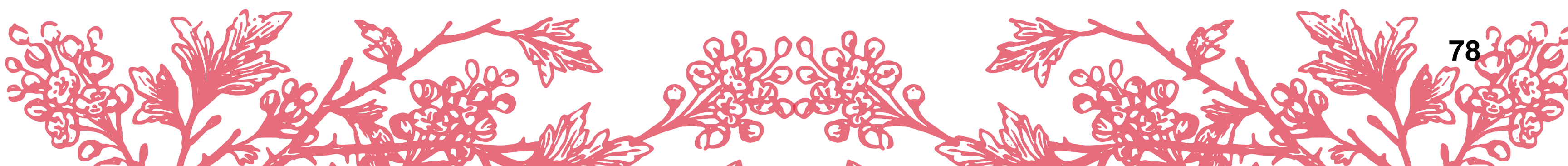
Nature sounds (such as ocean sounds)





HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

By engaging your loved one in common household tasks, they are provided with a sense of contribution and accomplishment. These activities can be of help to others, and may bring familiarity and routine into their daily lives. Consider your loved one's abilities prior to choosing an activity and adjust difficulty to meet their needs.



1

SPRING CLEANING

Materials Needed

- Dusting cloth
- Broom, mop, vacuum
- Cleaning products

Why do it?

Engaging in spring cleaning or organizing is an excellent way to keep your loved one engaged in activities they performed prior to their diagnosis. It is an excellent way to have them continue to feel a sense of normalcy and accomplishment once the task is finished.



Adjust Difficulty

If your loved one is unable to physically help out, sit down with them and have them identify priority tasks. Get their input on how to organize their belongings.

Have your loved one participate in as many tasks as they are capable of doing. Supplement their efforts by assisting with more physically or cognitively demanding tasks.



Safety

Many cleaning products are toxic if ingested. Read all safety labels, and consider your loved one's sensitivities to certain scents prior to use. Always use proper lifting technique when moving objects to avoid injury.



Find cleaning ideas on the following page



1

SPRING CLEANING

Consider one of the following activities to complete with your loved one:

- Empty out the pantry and fridge of old and expired foods.
- Clean out the closet and donate clothes or shoes that are no longer worn to local charities.
- Change the bedding from winter duvets to spring throws. Consider reorganizing linen closets and donating those no longer used to local charities.
- Go through old books. Organize them on a bookshelf by alphabetical order, genre or size.
- Check on home safety equipment such as CO2 detectors and fire extinguishers to ensure they are within date and still working.
- Reorganize the decor within a room – while this may not be cleaning, it can give the room a fresh, new feel!

2

MAKE A SHOPPING LIST

Materials Needed

- Recipe
- Pen and paper
OR computer with keyboard
OR iPad with stylus

Why do it?

Even if your loved one is unable to cook, it can be empowering to still be a part of this household task. By writing a shopping list based off a recipe of their choice, your loved one can feel as though they are contributing to the household!



Steps

1. Have your loved one choose one or more of their favourite recipes.
2. Look at which ingredients are needed for the recipe and compare them to what you already have in your kitchen.
3. Write or type the missing ingredients that are needed for the recipe, creating your shopping list.



Safety



When looking for ingredients that you already have in your kitchen, make sure the kitchen is clutter-free and that you supervise your loved one, to reduce the risk of falls.

2

MAKE A SHOPPING LIST



Adjust Difficulty

Physical

- Type the list of ingredients on the computer, or write it on an iPad with the use of a stylus.

- Write down the list of ingredients using a pen and pencil.

Cognitive

- Choose recipes which are simpler and aid your loved one by helping look at what ingredients you need versus the ones you already have.

- Let your loved one do most of the choosing of recipes and writing down necessary ingredients.

Safety



When looking for ingredients that you already have in your kitchen, make sure the kitchen is clutter-free and that you supervise your loved one, to reduce the risk of falls.

Idea



If your loved one wants to come grocery shopping, have them bring this shopping list and get them to check off items as they are collected!

Additional Resources

Use this [shopping list app](#) to create your own, personalized shopping list!



3

FOLDING LAUNDRY

Why do it?

Folding laundry is a repetitive task that can help to increase memory, self-confidence and competence. It can help your loved one feel as though they are contributing to the household by engaging in an activity that is helpful to other individuals.

Steps

1. Have your loved one sit at a table that is at an appropriate height to fold clothes on. They may also stand if that is more comfortable.
2. Place the clean laundry in front of your loved one and have them fold what is in the basket, based on their abilities.
3. Have them place the folded clothes in an empty basket once finished.



Materials Needed

- Clean laundry
- A clean table to fold clothes on
- A chair
- A laundry basket to put folded clothes in



Adjust Difficulty

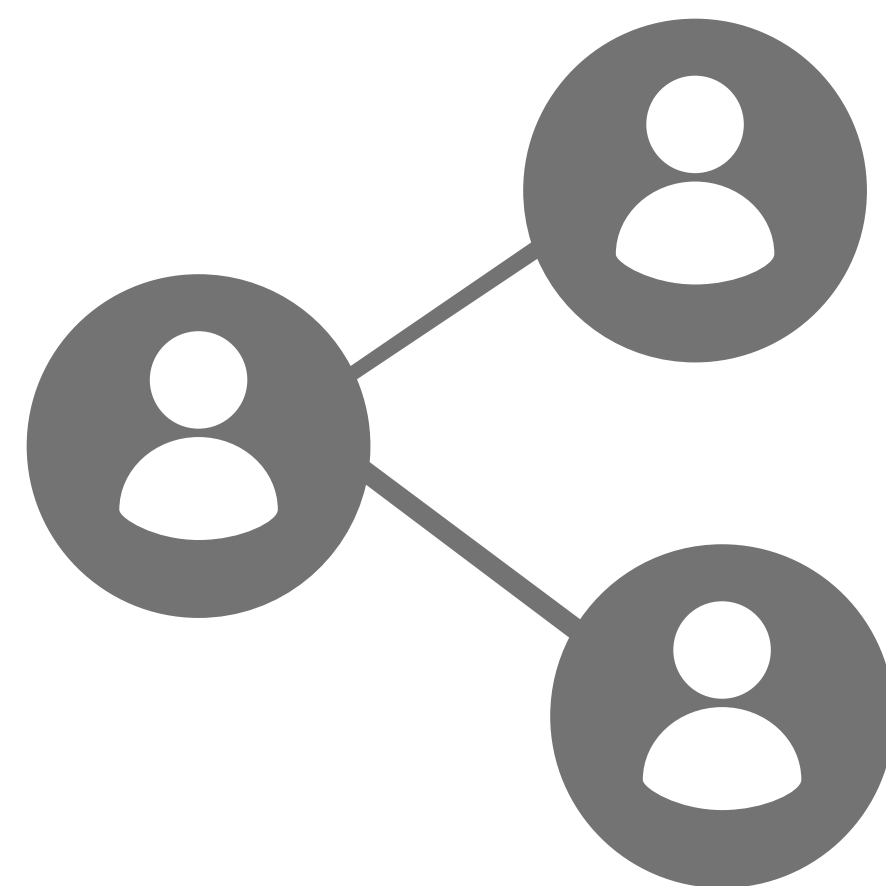
- Have your loved one pair socks together while you fold the clothes.
- Sort the clothes into piles for them beforehand.
- Have your loved one collect the clothes from the wash and put them in the dryer or hang them.
- Have your loved one put the folded clothes away in drawers.

Safety

Ensure that the laundry has cooled down completely before placing it in front of your loved one to be folded.



SOCIAL EVENTS



While one-on-one activities with your loved one can be fun, there may be occasions when you want to involve more family members or friends. The following activities are meant to be done in pairs or in a group, and all revolve around socialization. When involving more people, the amount of stimulation increases. This can be enjoyable for your loved one or it can be stressful, so ensure to consider their preferences and mood that day.

1

SPA DAY

Why do it?

A spa day can greatly improve one's overall mood and well-being. Massages have also been shown help to improve blood circulation throughout the body!



Materials Needed

- Nail polish
- Nail filer & nail clippers
- Shallow tub to soak feet in
- Towel
- Face masks
- Massage oil
- Any other required materials for the treatment of your choosing

Note: not all materials are needed, gather materials based on what activity you decide to do

↓ Adjust Difficulty ↑

Have your loved one lay in bed while you massage their feet.

Have your loved one reciprocate by providing you with a spa treatment such as a neck massage.

Safety



Perform a skin-test for substances such as the massage oil or face masks on a small area of one's skin before applying to face or a large surface of the body. Always use supervision to avoid ingestion of any of the materials.

Have your loved one decide what type of spa treatment they would like to do and then follow the steps associated with it. You can find the steps on the next page!



1

SPA DAY

Steps

- **Pedicure/manicure**

- Have them soak their feet or hands in a warm tub of water.
- Dry their feet or hands off with a towel and clip/file their nails.
- Have them choose their nail polish colour and paint their toes or fingers!

- **Face Mask**

- Buy a face mask packet at the pharmacy or create a DIY one at home!
 - [Cosmopolitan DIY Face Masks for Every Skin Type](#)
- Apply the face mask per instructions.

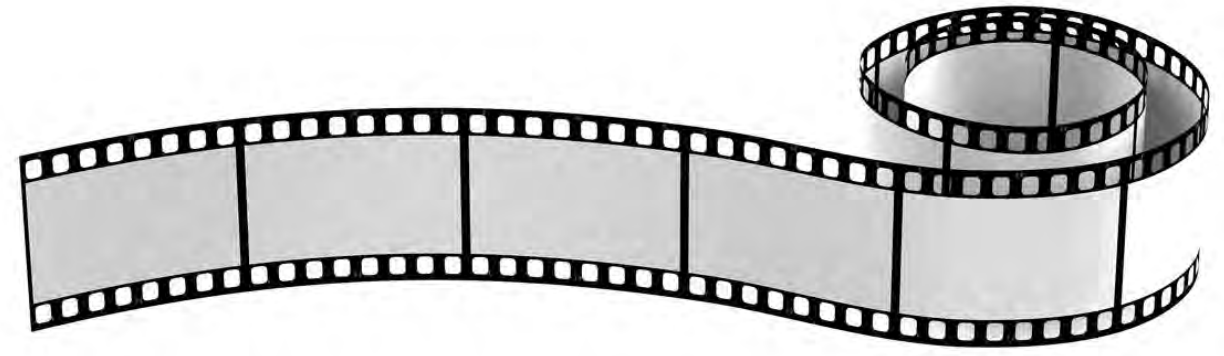


- **Massage**

- Have your loved one lie on their bed in a towel or under a sheet.
- Apply massage oil to the area that they would like massaged, such as their back or shoulders.
- Massage them in a gentle, circular motion.

2

HOST A MOVIE NIGHT



Why do it?

Hosting a movie night can make watching tv feel new and fun, and lead to valuable social interaction!

Materials Needed

- A TV
- Access to a streaming service or a DVD player and DVDs
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Seats (chairs, couches)
- Snacks (popcorn, chips, chopped veggies, etc.)
- Bowls
- Some guests!

Steps

Help your loved one to:

1. Set up a comfortable spot with chairs, pillows, blankets.
2. Fill bowls with snacks and set them out.
3. Select a movie they'd like to watch.

Snuggle in and enjoy the movie!



Safety

Consider what treats you are putting out. If your loved one easily chokes on food, or has been diagnosed with dysphagia, ensure the snacks are safe. For example, consider putting out treats such as pudding or milkshakes. If your loved one has dysphagia, ensure you are following their food guidelines.

Adjust Difficulty

Consider choosing a short TV show to watch instead of a full-length movie.

Have your loved one help prepare some homemade snacks beforehand.



Consider including the grandchildren in this activity with a kid-friendly movie.

3

HOST A TEA PARTY

Why do it?

A tea party is a great way to incorporate different sights, smells, taste while socializing.

Steps

1. Assist your loved one to:
2. Cover the table with a tablecloth.
3. Set the table with plates, cups and spoons.
4. Arrange the biscuits or other snacks on plates.
5. Prepare the tea.
6. Serve the refreshments to guests.

Materials Needed

- Teapot
- Tea
- Cups
- Plates
- Spoons
- Table
- Tablecloth
- Chairs
- Snacks (biscuits, sandwiches, etc.)
- Sugar
- Milk
- Other guests!



Adjust Difficulty



Reduce or remove the preparation that your loved one helps with. They could simply enjoy the tea and the company.

Have your loved one help make cookies or sandwiches to serve (look at the recipes in the Creating and Crafting section!)



Safety

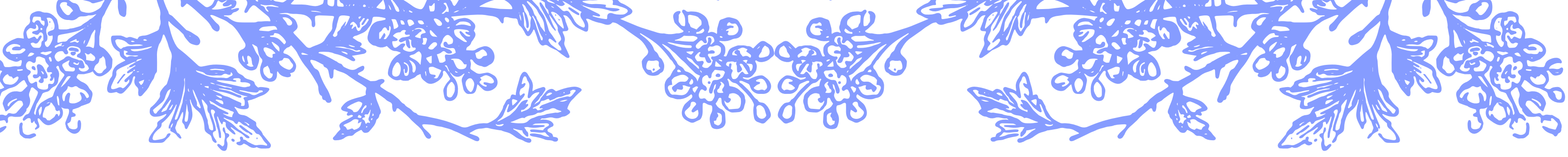


Be careful with the boiling water, you may want to pour the tea yourself. You may want to use plastic or paper cups with lids to prevent breaks or burns. Make sure any biscuits or other foods are an appropriate texture if your loved one has any swallowing difficulties.



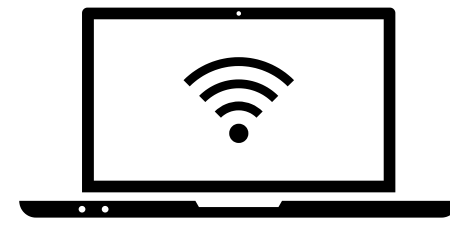
This could be a fun activity to do with grandchildren and their dolls or other toys.

Setting the table can be an activity in itself. It could be done before any meal.



4

VIRTUAL ADVENTURE



Materials Needed

A computer, laptop, iPad or other smart device with an internet connection

Why do it?

A virtual adventure provides your loved one with opportunities to visit different countries and museums, to have new experiences without having to leave the comfort of their room!



Steps

From the list provided, have your loved one choose which virtual adventure they would like to embark on based on their interests.

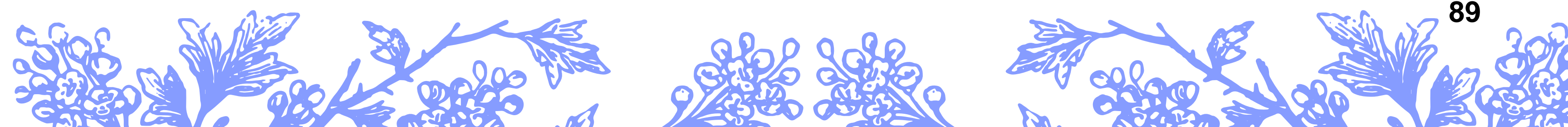
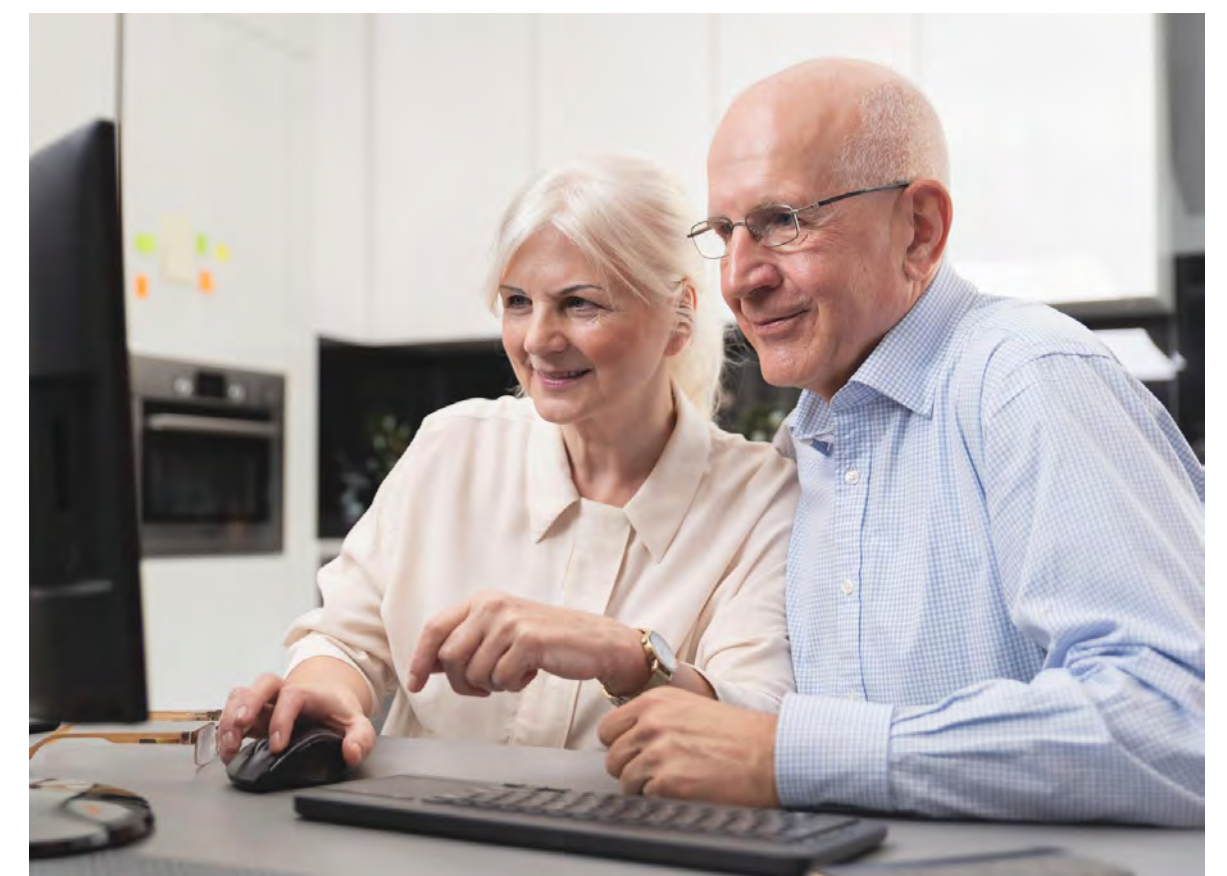
- General list:
 - [Reader's Digest Virtual Trips Good](#)
 - [Housekeeping- 30 Amazing Virtual Tours](#)
 - [Lonely Planet's best virtual tours](#)
- Museums:
 - [12 World-Class Museums to Visit Online](#)
 - [TimeOut- Virtual Tours of Museums Around the World](#)
- Nature/Travel
 - [Google Arts & Culture- Hidden Worlds of the National Parks](#)
 - [Travel & Leisure- 13 Virtual Train Rides From Around the World](#)



Adjust Difficulty

As a caregiver, you do the clicking and navigating of the site.

Have your loved one click through the virtual tour.





Conclusion

We found many resources online for caregivers about feeding, bathing, eating and dressing their loved ones living with dementia, but a lack of information about what to do for fun!

Our goal with the creation of this book was to provide inspiration for caregivers and their loved ones to participate in meaningful activities and form stronger social connections. We hope these activities bring you and your loved ones joy, laughter and good health!

- OT Students Nicole Drinkwater, Chrissy MacDonald, Emma Vadot & Madde MacDougall



Completed as part of OCC1-501 course requirements. Created by N. Drinkwater, C. MacDonald, E. Vadot, M. MacDougall & M.E. Bolduc, 2020. With the assistance of K. Falcicchio. Please contact authors to obtain consent before sharing documents. clinicaleducation.spot@mcgill.ca.



McGill

School of
Physical and
Occupational Therapy

Title of Activity:

Materials Needed

Steps



Adjust Difficulty



Safety



Notes



Title of Activity:

Materials Needed

Steps



Adjust Difficulty



Safety



Notes



Title of Activity:

Materials Needed

Steps



Adjust Difficulty



Safety



Notes



Title of Activity:

Materials Needed

Steps



Adjust Difficulty



Safety



Notes



Title of Activity:

Materials Needed

Steps



Adjust Difficulty



Safety



Notes





Links to Resources

Cooking:

- Alzheimer's Association Food and Eating
 - <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/daily-care/food-eating>
- Cooking for People with Dementia by Claudia Menebrocker and Jorne Rebbe
 - https://books.google.ca/books?id=YrYrTo-OvOC&printsec=frontcover&dq=cooking+for+people+with+dementia&hl=en&sa=X&ved=OahUKEwiv47267c_pAhUWsp4KHSyxC_wQ6AEIKDAA#v=onepage&q=cooking%20for%20people%20with%20dementia&f=false
- Home Safety Checklist
 - <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-dementia-home-safety-checklist-ts.pdf>

Recipes:

- Picnic Sandwich, Fruit Kebabs and Smoothie Time
 - <https://dementia.livebetterwith.com/blogs/advice/14-cooking-and-kitchen-activity-ideas-for-care-home-residents>
- Bake and Decorate Cookies
 - <https://www.active-minds.org/news/5-baking-activities-suitable-for-those-with-dementia/>
- Easy Sugar Cookie Recipe
 - <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/best-sugar-cookies/>
- Strawberry Freezer Jam
 - <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/51835/strawberry-freezer-jam/>
- Mashed Potatoes and Morning Pancakes
 - <https://books.google.ca/books?id=YrYrTo-OvOC&pg=PA74&ots=MozAQ1nOEK&dq=dumpling+making+for+dementia&pg=PA4#v=onepage&q=dumpling%20making%20for%20dementia&f=false>
- Make Pancake Batter from Scratch
 - <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/45396/easy-pancakes/>

Origami:

- Video on how to make an origami box
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK5Ni5_WEM4
- Origami Handbook
 - https://apapachoorigami.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/handbook_origami_cognitivee_registered-1.pdf
- Origami Instructions picture
 - <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/433190057897669491/>

Play Dough:

- Video of making own Play dough
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCtMiNcxgVY>
- Walmart shop for Play Dough
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/en/play-doh/N-1000611>

Making Jewelry:

- Beads on Amazon:
 - https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=pony+beads&rh=n%3A6646338011&ref=nb_sb_noss
- Friendship bracelet video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOiiUqbbXnO>

Knitting:

- Knitting instructions
 - <https://www.goldencarers.com/pdf/5015/>
- Knitting pom-poms
 - https://www.careuk.com/sites/rcs/files/Care_UK_rcs_Easy_as_ABC.pdf
- Knitting a scarf
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHlsWOWl144>

Bird Feeding:

- DIY site to make bird feeders
 - <https://www.diyncrafts.com/3515/home/23-diy-birdfeeders-will-fill-garden-birds>
- Bird Feeder Image
 - <https://images.app.goo.gl/FNdvyDkJtCJdf5x7>



Links to Resources

Ornament Making

- Salt dough video
 - <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/salt-dough-handprint-ornament/?jwsorce=cl>
- Cinnamon dough recipe
 - <https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-cinnamon-dough-ornaments-226709>

Create a Scrapbook

- Make it online
 - <https://www.mixbook.com>

Make a Memory Book

- Book Creator
 - <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/book-creator-one/id661166101>
- MemLife
 - <https://memlife.com/home>
- Pictello
 - <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/pictello/id397858008>

Stress Relieving Colouring:

- Easier colouring pages
 - <https://www.coloring.ws/fruit.htm>
- Harder colouring pages <https://www.justcolor.net/nature/coloring-animals-insects/>
- <https://www.justcolor.net/nature/coloring-animals-insects/>
- Adult colouring book
 - https://www.amazon.ca/Large-Print-Coloring-Book-Patterns/dp/1949651762/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=adult+coloring+book+for+dementia&qid=1588865601&sr=8-1
- Colouring book for individuals with dementia
 - https://www.amazon.ca/Flower-Coloring-Seniors-Large-Print/dp/1696319412/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=adult+coloring+book+for+dementia&qid=1588865601&sr=8-3
- Colouring Book Apps
 - <https://www.amazon.ca/Colorfy-Free-Coloring-Adults-Games/dp/B01248YO8E>

Draw, Paint, Collage:

- Balloon stamping
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6SV_ZwU7LQ
- Draw and paint on computer
 - <https://jspaint.app/#local:4cc450fedd8578>
- Sketchbook app
 - <https://sketchbook.com>
- Collage online
 - <https://www.befunky.com/create/collage/>

Shopping:

- Shopping list app
 - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/anylist-grocery-shopping-list/id522167641>
 -

Crossword Puzzles

- Free, online puzzles
 - <https://www.boatloadpuzzles.com/playcrossword>
- Free, printable puzzles that are updated daily
 - <http://www.onlinecrosswords.net/printable-daily-crosswords.php>
- Link to purchase crossword booklets online
 - https://www.amazon.com/s?k=crossword+puzzle+books+for+adults&rh=n%3A4416&dc&_encoding=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&linkCode=ur2&linkId=363afb1e8eea82c14fca08989d2363f0&qid=1526315729&rnid=2941120011&tag=beelinewebcOd-20&ref=sr_nr_n_1
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/search/crossword%20puzzle>

Word Search Puzzles

- Free, online puzzles
 - <https://thewordsearch.com/>
- Free, online and printable puzzles with solutions
 - <https://www.puzzles.ca/word-search/>
- Link to purchase word search booklets online
 - https://www.amazon.com/s?k=word+search+books+for+adults&rh=n%3A283155%2Cn%3A4455&dc&_encoding=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&fst=as%3Aoff&linkCode=ur2&linkId=79f4bda97a38f22b45a5d54820bcff4&qid=1526315771&rnid=1000&tag=beelinewebcOd-20&ref=sr_nr_n_1
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/search/word%20search>



Links to Resources

Sudoku

- Free, online puzzles with varying difficulties
 - <https://sudoku.game/>
- Free, printable puzzles with solutions
 - <https://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku/>
- Link to purchase Sudoku booklets online
 - https://www.amazon.com/s?k=word+search+books+for+adults&rh=n%3A283155%2Cn%3A4455&dc&_encoding=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&fst=as%3Aoff&linkCode=ur2&linkId=79f4bda97a38f22b45a5d54820bc1f4&qid=1526315771&rnid=1000&tag=beelinewebc0d-20&ref=sr_nr_n_1
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/search/sudoku>

Jigsaw Puzzles

- Online, free jigsaw puzzles
 - <https://www.jigsawexplorer.com/>
 - <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/>
- Purchase jigsaw puzzles
 - https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=adult+jigsaw+puzzles&i=toys&ref=nb_sb_noss_1
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/search/jigsaw%20puzzle>
- Create your own jigsaw puzzle
 - <https://www.shutterfly.com/photo-gifts/puzzles?esch=1>

Board Games

- Link to where various board games can be found for online purchase
 - <https://www.amazon.ca/>
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/search/board%20games>
- Ultra Board Games website where many board game's rules and game play are found
 - <https://www.ultraboardgames.com/index.php>
- Rules for playing Dominoes
 - <https://www.dominorules.com/straight-dominoes>
- Rules for playing Tic Tac Toe – Can also play online
 - https://www.exploratorium.edu/brain_explorer/tictactoe.html

Card Games

- Link to where to purchase playing cards online
 - https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=playing+cards&ref=nb_sb_noss_2
 - <https://www.walmart.ca/search/standard%20deck%20of%20cards>
- Rules on various fan favourite games from bicycle cards
 - <https://bicyclecards.com/rules/>
- Purchase specialized Old Maid card packs
 - <https://www.amazon.ca/slp/old-maid-card-game/p7nbrau4h4wq4hf>

Interactive Walking

- Scavenger Hunt Walk
 - <https://www.craftymorning.com/neighborhood-scavenger-hunt-game-sheet/>
- Bingo walking
 - <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/361976888800088750/?autologin=true>
 - <https://theholdernessfamily.com/stay-at-home-window-bingo/>



Links to Resources

Yoga

- Chair yoga
 - Video of gentle chair yoga for individuals with dementia (calm music): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEjiXtb2hRg>
 - Gentle chair yoga for beginners and seniors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DYH5ud3zHo>
 - Sheet with description and images of yoga poses: <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSFCS71.pdf>
- Mat/standing yoga
 - Video of yoga for seniors on a mat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFhG-ZzLNN4>
 - 7-minute video of standing yoga for seniors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDLad2vOHkU>
- Other
 - Free yoga for individuals with dementia: <https://aumhomeshala.org/classes/free-yoga-classes-alzheimers-dementia/>

Meditation

- Calming music
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grrz8i2enXg>
- Mediation videos
 - 5-minute meditation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inpok4MKVLM>
 - 15-minute meditation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzV6J4WCwRM>
- Meditation/body scan (involves an increased cognitive ability)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2UFYXYQHjA>

Chair Exercises

- Full body chair exercises for individuals with more mobility and access to hand weights
 - <https://californiamobility.com/21-chair-exercises-for-seniors-visual-guide/>
- Full body chair exercise video for seniors
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91ABO4utqkA>
- Chair “tai chi” video, can be done with or without the sticks seen in video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYELdmQpCUQ>
- Chair exercise video demonstration
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BcPHWGQO44>

Virtual trips

- General list
 - <https://www.rd.com/culture/virtual-day-trips/>
 - <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>
 - <https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/indoor/virtual-field-trips-kids-can-take-from-your-living-room/>
- Museums
 - <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/75809/12-world-class-museums-you-can-visit-online>
 - <https://www.timeout.com/travel/virtual-museum-tours>
- Nature
 - <https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/welcome>
 - <https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/bus-train/virtual-train-rides>

References

(1) Pöllänen, S. H., & Hirsimäki, R. M. (2014). Crafts as memory triggers in reminiscence: a case study of older women with dementia. *Occupational therapy in health care*, 28(4), 410–430.

(2) Vogel, T., Brechat, P. H., Leprêtre, P. M., Kaltenbach, G., Berthel, M., & Lonsdorfer, J. (2009). Health benefits of physical activity in older patients: a review. *International journal of clinical practice*, 63(2), 303–320.

Bracelet making image, taken from <https://images.app.goo.gl/z3mTshB74hiYVZ7p9>.

Knitting image, taken from <https://images.app.goo.gl/jzUEs72oPkGSgeWr5>

Bird feeder image, taken from <https://images.app.goo.gl/FNdvyDkJtCJdf5x7>

Guess Who? Image taken from https://www.google.com/search?q=guess+who%3F&sxsrf=ALeKk0Ob6xh2jFuIrPnjqLKVg3tyoZ2MDA:1590644718454&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjdl1aCr7dXpAhXYIDQIHS6LCKEQ_AUoAXoECCIQAw&biw=1420&bih=710#imgrc=kn_6nR3VjLT4gM