

Here's the proof!

Persons with dementia want relationships with other people and are capable of having them, even when the dementia is advanced, but others must take the initiative to create and maintain the relationship (Penrod et al., 2007).

Norbergh, Helin, Dahl, Hellzén, & Asplund (2006) studied professional caregivers' attitudes towards persons with dementia and identified negative attitudes towards persons with communication deficits and behavioural disorders as relational barriers.

In these cases, professional caregivers often avoided creating a relationship beyond interaction in the course of basic nursing.

McCallion, Toseland, Lacey, & Banks (1999) have **shown, however, that professional caregivers can be trained to interact more with persons with moderate to severe dementia in order to facilitate relationships.**

Source: Creating relationships with persons with moderate to severe dementia

Iréne Ericsson and Sofia Kjellström, Jönköping University, Sweden; Ingrid Hellström, Linköping University, Sweden

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—*Penrod et al., 2007*



More information? Ring me now:

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Helping residents with dementia—and their carers



LIFE STORY IN A NUTSHELL

Running an aged-care facility? Inevitably, some of your residents will have been affected by dementia.

Your actual hands-on staff are flat out with the business of caring for these residents. You often wish you had more carers.

Admission information doesn't give them many clues about who the person has been.

Nor can they spend time with a resident's family to find out significant details of the person's earlier life and achievements.

But the fact remains:

Knowing more about each resident's life is crucial to improving their wellbeing.

And improving the wellbeing of persons with dementia is a win for everyone!



A friendly conversation helps everyone put things in perspective. This then helps build resilience and the ability to cope better.

Engagement and pleasure

Imagine if your caregivers had a quick way to find out about a new resident's former life — and the information's right there, beside their bed.

Familiarity with these facts would give each carer a tool to connect with a resident quickly and easily.

Carers may already know what subjects or situations could distress the resident.

But now they'd know which topics would engage the resident, or bring them great pleasure to recall.

The past can be a pleasant place to visit!

Capturing details

Life Story in a Nutshell is a personalised service that collaborates with family members to create a 1,000-word mini-memoir of the resident, filled with anecdotes, achievements and photos.

Professional writer and editor Josephine Brown is a former journalist, so she's trained to gather facts and write concisely and clearly.

She knows no one wants to read something twice to understand it.



Life Story in a Nutshell appears in an attractive A3-sized format, framed and ready to place near a resident's bed for easy reference. The subject of Life Story in a Nutshell will also enjoy having this pleasing acknowledgment of their life.

What comes next?

Josephine will collaborate with family members to gather the resources needed for this Life Story in a Nutshell.

A first draft will go to the family for approval or amendment.

After any changes are made, the final version will go to the resident's family for sign-off.

Once that happens, the resident's unique Life Story in a Nutshell is printed, framed and promptly delivered to the designated address.