

Dementia Behaviors and the Importance of Communication

AMBER HOON, LPN

TRIBAL DEMENTIA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

GREAT LAKES INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL





Dementia Introduction

Dementia is not a single disease, but a general term for the impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions

Dementia is progressive

There are several types of dementia

Types of Common Dementias

Alzheimer's
Disease

Vascular
Dementia

Lewy Body
Dementia

Frontotemporal
Dementia

Mixed
Dementia

Some Behaviors Associated with the different Types of Dementia:

Confusion

Agitation, Irritability

Mood Swings

Difficulty with Communication

Personality Changes

Wandering

Repetition

Changes in Sleep Patterns

Hallucinations

Impaired Judgement

Lack of Insight

Aggression or Aggressive Behavior

Communication

Communication is the process of exchanging information, ideas, thoughts, or feelings between individuals or groups

There Are Various Forms of Communication

Forms of Communication

Verbal

Written Words

Gestures

Facial Expressions

Body Posturing

And in the case of dementia and other cognitive impairments through behavior

The Importance of Communication:

Connection and relationships

Expressing Needs and Preferences

Reducing Anxiety and Frustration

Maintaining Dignity

Enhancing Safety and Well Being

Memory Recall and Cognitive Stimulation

Empathy and Emotional Support

Promoting Independence

Facilitating Care

Quality of Life

Difficulties in Communication, Common Ways Dementia Affects Language and Comprehension:

Word Finding and Vocabulary

Fluency and coherence

Comprehension

Repetition

Echolalia

Difficulty Processing Information

Loss of Social Language Skills

Pragmatic Language Impairments

Reading and Writing Impairments

Naming Difficulties

Lack of Awareness

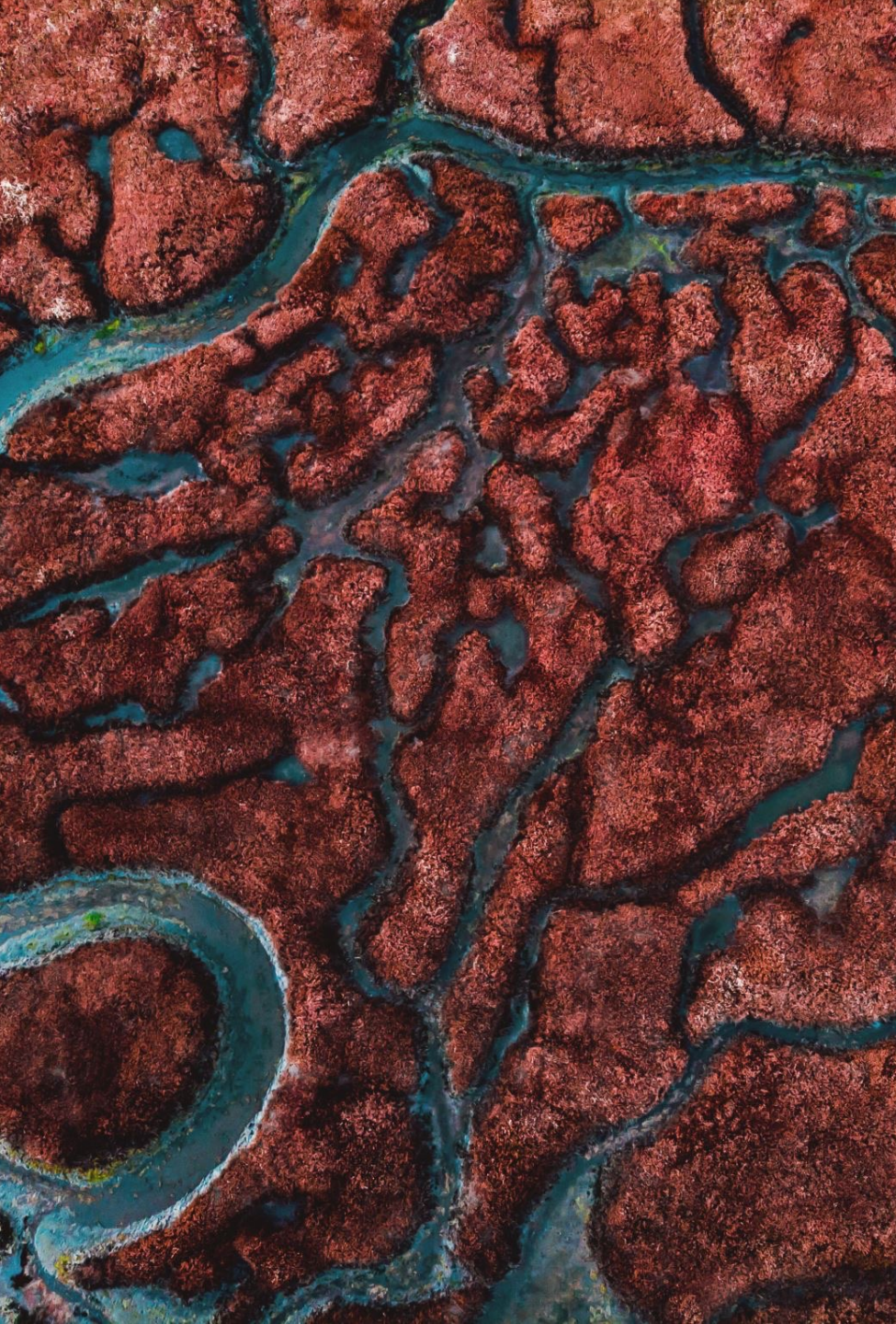
Strategies to Improve Communication:

- Use Simple Language
- Maintain eye Contact if culturally appropriate
- Speak Slowly and Clearly
- Encourage One-on-One Conversations
- Use Non-Verbal Cues
- Be Patient and Allow Time
- Provide Choices
- Be Flexible and Adapt
- Focus on Feelings
- Use visual Aides
- Limit Distractions
- Repeat and Reinforce
- Be Positive and Encouraging
- Validate Emotions
- Understand Non-Verbal Cues
- Use Memory Aides
- Reminisce and Share Memories



Grandma!





Miigwech (Thank You)!

Amber Hoon, LPN

Tribal Dementia Program Director

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ahoon@glitc.org

(715) 588-1058