INCREASING EXTENDED CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS'
ATTENDANCE AT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH
CONVENIENT LOCATIONS AND PERSONAL INVITATIONS¹

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Residents of extended care facilities generally exhibit a low level of attendance at recreational and therapeutic activities. Spatial arrangement of rooms, prompting, snacks, and small prizes have been suggested as factors that affect attendance. The present study examined the effects of an extensive system of prompts and the location of activity areas on the attendance of residents at a variety of activities. Twenty-six subjects were randomly selected from the ambulatory population of the facility. The first time each subject entered the activity room during the first 6 min of an activity session their name was recorded. Reliability measures were taken at 10 sessions, with a 95% mean agreement between observers. The variables examined were the amount of individualization of subjects (experimental group 1: names announced *versus* experimental group 2: names not announced), room location (central or peripheral), use of names in announcements (activity only *versus* activity and group I names), and mode of announcement (PA system only *versus* PA system and in-person). A counter-balanced group design with repeated measures was used, with a randomly determined order of application of experimental treatments. An analysis of variance split plot 2.222 (Kirk, R. E. *Experimental Design: Procedures for the Behavioral Science*. Belmont, Ca.: Brooks-Cole, 1968.) of the level of subject attendance yielded significant main effects for room location, $F(1, 24) = 5.47$, $p < 0.05$, and type of announcement, $F(1, 24) = 9.10$, $p < 0.01$, and significant interactions for Individualization $\times$ Use of Names in Announcements, $F(1, 24) = 5.57$, $p < 0.05$, and Room Location $\times$ Mode of Announcement, $F(1, 24) = 7.90$, $p < 0.01$. The results indicate that using a centrally located room and announcement of resident names increases attendance at a variety of activities. The increased social and environmental interaction generated by activity attendance has potential therapeutic benefits for the residents involved. Furthermore, the kind of information reported here and by others should be taken into consideration by planners of a variety of group living facilities, ranging from nursing homes to residential treatment cottages.

DESCRIPTORS: recreational activities, increasing attendance at; names, announcements, personal invitations, extended care facilities, counterbalanced group design, psychiatric patients, geriatric patients

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