Caregiver Connections
An Educational Webinar Series With The Experts

The presentation will begin shortly.
Thank you for your patience!

dukefamilysupport.org
919-660-7510
Home Safety & Dementia

Marie Dagger, MS, OTR/L
Orange County Department on Aging
Today’s Topics

- Brain changes that can affect safety at home
- Suggestions for modifications to the physical environment
- Considerations for improving safety during activities at home
Brain Change Considerations

Sensory Processing
- Safety Alerts
- Trip & Slip Hazards
- Object Recognition
Brain Change Considerations

Executive Functioning
- Problem-Solving
- Impulse Control
- Attention
- Planning
- Insight
Let’s look at some home spaces....
Bathroom

Physical Environment Suggestions

- Lighting
- Water hazards
- Temperature
- Grab bars
- Low/No Step Entry
- Seating options
Bathroom

Activity Considerations

- Extra space for assistants
- Spot to set out supplies
- Water temperature control
Kitchen

Physical Environment Suggestions
- Lighting
- Decrease visual clutter
- Drawer pulls
- Microwave placement
- Oven controls
Kitchen

Activity Considerations

- Emergency Stove Shut-Off
- Preferred, easy open snacks in visible place
- Check for food spoilage
- Awareness of sharps
- Provide easy instructions near common appliances
Entry/Exit

Physical Environment Suggestions

- Lighting
- Handrails
- Ramps
- No clutter on steps
- Visible address numbers
Entry/Exit

Activity Considerations
- Resting place by the doorway
- Levers vs knobs
- Wandering supports
Bedroom

Physical Environment Suggestions

- Lighting
- Bed set-up
- Avoid clutter
- Seating option
Bedroom

Activity Considerations
- Consider night toileting options
- Seating option
In Case of Emergency
Plan ahead

- If you need help, who can you call?
- Can the person exit the home?
- Can the person call for help?
Questions & Discussion

Marie Dagger, MS, OTR/L, CDCP, ECHM
Mdagger@orangecountync.gov
919.245.4279

Orange County Aging Helpline:
AgingTransitions@orangecountync.gov
919.968.2087
Caregiver Connections
An Educational Webinar Series With The Experts

Thank you for joining us today!

dukefamilysupport.org
919-660-7510