

“ Once we
have lived,
the spark of
vision does
the rest. ”

Maria Montessori

SPARK

Our unique and award-winning approach to living well with dementia. Inspired by Montessori Methods, Spark focuses on engagement, social lifestyle and inclusion within the community at large.



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SPARK

INSPIRED BY MONTESSORI METHODS



MONTESSORI INSPIRED

We all need a reason to get up in the morning. At Frontier Management, we understand that the keys to a life well-lived are community, inclusion and purpose. **Spark** places ultimate focus on supporting our residents' ideas, choices, and independence. We empower residents to create a community that speaks to them. Our staff foster the natural spark within each individual by encouraging new ideas and helping to make these ideas a reality regardless of deficits.

Weekly resident committees, our Lifelong Learning University and frequent community service projects fill our residents' days with a true sense of purpose, contribution and belonging. Our partnership with the **Center for Applied Research in Dementia** ensures that our communities are thoughtfully designed, staff are adequately trained and each element of our lifestyles program is designed to strengthen a sense of community.

Our Goal is to focus on what is possible. With Spark, we create a specialized, life-enriching environment that affords self-expression to each individual.

THE FOUNDATIONS

SOCIAL ROLES

IMPROVING AND FOCUSING ON REMAINING SKILLS

PROCEDURAL MEMORY

PROGRESSION AND SETTING GOALS



SOCIAL ROLES

We take great care to ensure each individual resident has a role to fulfill within the community. Residents desire to have social roles within their community and as part of the greater global community. Examples of meaningful social roles fulfilled by residents:

- Sweeping
- Laundry
- Helping set and clear the tables for dinner
- Assisting others with activities
- Making items to donate to local organizations

IMPROVING AND FOCUSING ON REMAINING SKILLS

Through repetition and use of procedural memory, skills can be learned or improved. Dementia affects existing memories, but doesn't prevent residents from forming new ones.

A special Montessori Assessment Tool, created by the Center for Applied Research in Dementia, gives our staff a crucial glimpse into remaining skills often missed by traditional healthcare assessments.

PROCEDURAL MEMORY

Procedural memory is memory learned from routine actions we perform. It most frequently resides below the level of conscious awareness.

When needed, procedural memories are automatically retrieved to perform both cognitive and motor skills. Procedural memories are used without the need for conscious control or attention.

This type of memory is created through "procedural learning" or repeating a complex activity over and over again until all of the relevant neural systems work together to automatically produce the activity.

PROGRESSION AND SETTING GOALS

By working on projects or learning topics over a longer period of time, residents are more engaged and successful. It's easy to identify the limits of Alzheimer's and dementia, but we prefer to focus on what our residents can still do, and the skills they bring to our community.