Fostering Personhood Through Creative Expression

A Presentation by Kirsten Camartin MSW RSW DTATI Candidate. Ontario Canada
Reasons for Conducting the Project

- Established calling from people with dementia
- Reduction in Stigma
- Capabilities to grow, share and learn
- Stepping outside the role of ‘sick person’
Art Therapy is...
A creative way to express thoughts and feelings
Art piece=method of communication

The colour green represented the outdoors and being in nature for this participant
1st phase

What do you want to say is happening here?
The Story

The Shortest Distance

Wade, in Rome

Italy, June 24th, 72

A man and a woman, standing on a beach, arms outstretched, looking up at the sky.

The man: "This is the only beach I've ever seen that's not sunny.

The woman: "I don't believe it. I thought you were just making it up.

The man: "No, I'm telling you the truth. I saw it in a movie once.

The woman: "Well, I'm not going to believe it until I see it for myself.

The man: "Okay. I'll prove it to you. I'll take you to the beach and you can see it for yourself.

The woman: "Fine. But I'm warning you, if it's not sunny, I'm going to be very angry.

The man: "Don't worry. I'm sure it will be sunny.

The woman: "Okay, I'll go with you. But if it's not sunny, I'm not going to be happy.

The man: "I promise you, it will be sunny.

They arrive at the beach, and sure enough, it's sunny. The woman is impressed.

The woman: "You were right. I've never seen a beach that wasn't sunny before.

The man: "I knew it would be sunny.

The woman: "Yes, but I thought you were just making it up.

The man: "I'm not making it up. I saw it in a movie once.

The woman: "Well, I'm going to believe you now.

The man: "Good. I'm glad you believed me.

The woman: "Me too. It was really worth it.

The man: "I'm glad you're happy.

The woman: "I am. I'm really glad we came.

The man: "I'm glad we came too.

The woman: "So, do you want to go back to the hotel and relax?

The man: "Yes, I do. I'm tired.

The woman: "Okay. I'll go with you.

They walk back to the hotel, happy and content.

The end.
Art pieces created by participant with dementia

MaMa Sea Food
Pawpaws
Shrimp
Sea-food.

MAGNOLIA
2\textsuperscript{nd} phase
3rd phase
Man's Best Friend

Look out Scottie!
Let me have the ball. I will throw it over there.

So you may get away. I need you to be my friend.
“The eroding sense of self that overshadows a person with dementia’s ability to participate in their own world can be temporarily suspended during the art process” (Camartin, 2012, p. 12).


References


References

