

**Can a multi-sensory product  
enhance quality of life  
for people living with dementia and  
be used as a tool in the evaluation  
of an individual's needs?**


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3-5 JULY 2013

# Quality of life . . . for people living with dementia?




*Barbara Pointon's Inverted triangle, 2011*



'As the progression of dementia occurs, there are fewer opportunities for them to initiate their own activities. One thing a caregiver can do to help the shrinking world is to offer sensory stimulation'  
*(Vozzelle 2007).*

# Multi-sensory



*'Sensory stimulation alone is unlikely to slow the development rate of dementia symptoms, but communication such as making eye contact, holding hands, and other positive one to one interactions are important. (Simard 2007)*

*"If sensory stimulation can help carers to interact with the person inside, it may offer a way to meet a most basic human need."*

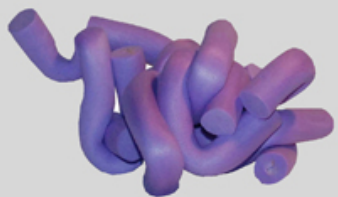
*(Spaull, Leach, and Frampton 1998)*



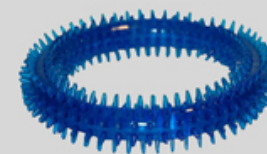
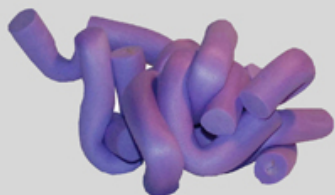
# Multi-sensory



# Found objects



# Found objects





# Sensory Store



# Please touch



**Alzheimer's Society, Central Lancashire.**  
*(2012 - present).*

**World Mental Health Day.**  
*(October 2012).*



# How did the interaction with the object make you feel?

- stress release • fruity • comfort • cool • soothing • curious • spiky • feel happy • she did not feel anything, but found object cute • mysterious • feels close to nature, want to explore • don't know • strange • happy, light-hearted, reminiscent of children's toys
  - intrigued • occupied, calmly focused • happy • giggle • completely opposite to expectations - surprised to feel it was soft • challenged expectations • enjoyed the movement • playful • engaged and interacted • like it • happy • nice, pleasurable to touch
- calm • comforting • reminiscent of the seaside • meditative - pulls me into the sensation • relaxing - reminds me of the beach • fun
  - surprised about how much you could squeeze it • intrigued • amused • relaxed • childlike • rhythmic • happy • surprised
  - comforted • curious • relaxed • satisfied that I could bend it without doing harm • calmer • distracted and stimulated • creepy •



# Fidget Widget

A name to describe something that you can't really describe because you don't really know what the name of it really is . .

## DICTIONARY DEFINITION

**Fidget** *'a feeling of agitation expressed in continual motion'*

**Widget** *'something unspecified whose name is either forgotten or not known'*  
*'a device or control that is very useful for a particular job'*

# > **Can it be used as a tool in the evaluation of an individual's needs?**

*“In the context of agitation management, person-centred care is permitted on the understanding that agitation is not always symptomatic of dementia but can be the expression of an unmet need of the patient.”*

*(Stokes 1996)*

*Testing the quality of life in people with dementia is weak in terms of accurate indicators “we still know very little about quality of life in this area”*

*(Warner, Milne and Peet 2010)*

# > **ANY QUESTIONS?**

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