

**Communicating Through the Stages of Dementia**

Marsha Berry, MA, CAEd  
May 6, 2010


alzheimer's association

**Effects of Dementia on Cognition**

- Memory
- Judgment
- Attention
- Perception
- Organization
- Abstraction
- Language

alzheimer's association


**1967**



Courtesy of  
Galerie Beckel  
Odille Boicos  
Paris

alzheimer's association


**1996**




Courtesy of  
Galerie Beckel  
Odille Boicos  
Paris

alzheimer's association


**1997**




Courtesy of  
Galerie Beckel  
Odille Boicos  
Paris

alzheimer's  association


**1998**




Courtesy of  
Galerie Beckel  
Odille Boicos  
Paris


alzheimer's  association

**1999**




Courtesy of  
Galerie Beckel  
Odille Boicos  
Paris

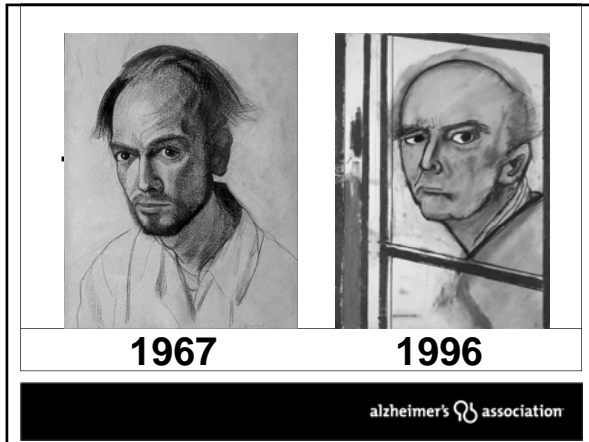
alzheimer's  association



Courtesy of  
Galerie Beckel  
Odille Boicos  
Paris

**2000**

alzheimer's  association



### Elderspeak

Elderspeak includes:

- Collective (plural) pronouns
- Diminutives
- Tag questions
- Exaggerated praise

alzheimer's association

### Elderspeak

Elderspeak includes:

- Simplistic speech
- Slow speech
- Elevated pitch and volume

alzheimer's association

### Elderspeak


“Resistiveness to care behavior was twice as likely to occur following the use of elderspeak communication compared to normal talk.”

Ruth E. Herman, PhD, and Kristine N. Williams, RN, PhD University of Kansas School of Nursing, 2009

alzheimer's association


**Verbal Communication Guidelines**

- Use the name the person prefers
- Give simple directions, one step at a time
- Use the same words, when repeating
- Use nouns
- Speak slowly, clearly, lower pitch

alzheimer's  association


**Verbal Communication Guidelines**

- Support the feeling behind the communication
- Ask for what you want/need
- Be aware of slang
- Offer multiple clues

alzheimer's  association

**Contact Information**

Marsha Berry, MA, CAEd  
952.857.0541  
Marsha.berry@alz.org

alzheimer's  association