



Diamond Bingo and Star Bingo

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When you think of Activities and a Nursing Home, the first thing that comes to mind is Bingo! Crowne Health Care has taken this popular activity and added a therapeutic approach. Our Best Practice is called “Diamond Bingo and Star Bingo.” The Diamond Bingo group is for our residents who require a little assistance to shine. Help is provided by staff and other residents. The Star Bingo group is residents who need no assistance and are the “Rock Stars” of Bingo. This Best Practice is a “win-win” situation for both residents who help and those who are being helped.

The Diamond Bingo session gives residents with a physical or cognitive disability an opportunity to play Bingo. Diamond Bingo puts a therapeutic approach to the game by allowing higher functioning residents an opportunity to assist another resident who needs help. This prompts a sense of purpose for the residents offering assistance, as well as allowing residents requiring assistance to play with confidence at his/her own pace. The Diamond Bingo volunteers assist other residents by helping cover the numbers, or point out the numbers if someone has trouble with identifying the correct number. Diamond Bingo gives those residents who love the game an opportunity to play and not be ashamed of their disability. In the Star Bingo session higher functioning residents who need no assistance are able to play at a faster pace.

This Best Practice puts a very creative and therapeutic approach to a classic and all-time favorite activity, Bingo. Having two Bingo sessions is a positive and nurturing experience for both the residents in the Diamond and Star groups. It has created such a positive environment for our residents. The staff has even commented on how productive this Best Practice has been. They have witnessed the residents offer to be more helpful which has overflowed into other aspects of the nursing home besides Bingo time. Family members also have mentioned their satisfaction and gratitude because their loved ones can play Bingo and not feel they are a distraction or hindrance because they need help. The friendships that have developed were just another bonus that resulted from this Best Practice. This has truly been a remarkable program and we are sure it will become as successful anywhere it is implemented!