

## Dementia, Dining & Dignity at the Dinner Table

Presented by:

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Cold Spring, MN

[www.Gemini-Consulting.org](http://www.Gemini-Consulting.org)

Presented for :  
**Morningside  
Ministries**  
San Antonio, TX  
[www.mmlern.org](http://www.mmlern.org)

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## The Situation

Too often, aging services providers find that caregivers have not mastered the art & science of dementia communication, resulting in disheartening, undignified and even dangerous situations, especially during meals. When they should be experiencing the comfort of a familiar routine, persons with dementia are instead experiencing confusion, frustration, and anxiety.

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# Dignity?

## Standing over

**Not  
describing  
food**

**No interaction**

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# Dignity?

**Talking over or around the person as if they are not even there**

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## Doing a Quick Check

## Task Talk

We have get you cleaned-up now.

## No Talk

Interaction is wordless.

## Staff Talk

Are you going on break pretty soon?

[illegible]

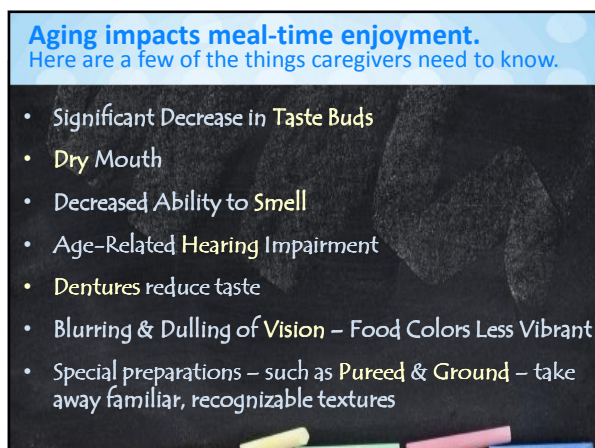
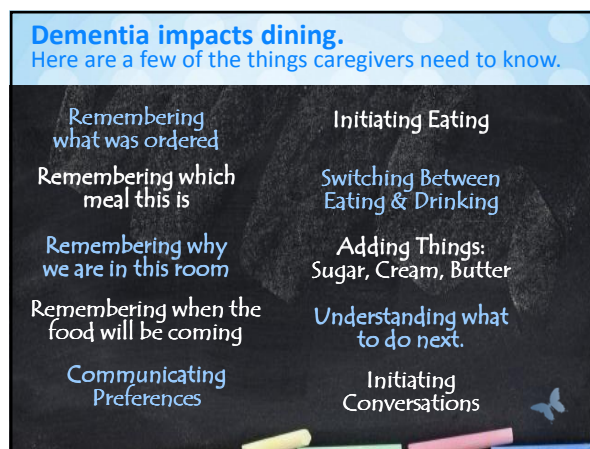
## Person Talk & Dementia Cuing

Helen, I think you will like this!  
Green beans with bacon!

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### Cuing Friendship



Gladys, I want you to meet a real cracker jack!

Helen, meet the one and only Estelle!

I think you two go a long way back.

You are the two best-looking women at the table!

### Presenting the Meal



Below eye level

Eye contact first

Sparkling face

Simple Statements

Low pitch. No up-talking

Hot out of the oven!

I made it just for you!

Broasted chicken today!

Mashed potatoes with extra butter!

Green beans with bacon!

### Coaching for Cuing...

Food Cuing – for appetite & pleasure

Reminiscing Cuing

Friendship Cuing

Describing what is coming next



### Cuing instead of Doing



### Getting it Right.



For more information about Dignity & Dementia Coaching

Erin Bonitto - Founder & Lead Coach

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