

What Would You Do?

As in all cases, every episode in the life of a person who has dementia presents a need for an individualized response. Because there are many variables in the world of dementia, we need to explore different options. Having a game plan for each of these scenarios gives us a starting point...

Scenarios involving People With Dementia	Example Responses:	OTHER RESPONSES
Mildred walks into the room with Margaret's purse clinched in her hand.	<i>Avoiding reprimand, engage Mildred to set up a diversion. Once her mind is off the purse, slip the purse out of sight.</i>	
Suzie takes all the toilet paper rolls and stuffs them into her dresser drawers.	<i>Make an executive decision to now store the toilet paper in Suzie's dresser drawers. Suzie becomes the supervisor of our toilet paper.</i>	
Jim walks into the room with an obvious stain on his sweater which is buttoned incorrectly.	<i>If it is really necessary to change clothing, offer a compliment first and then say, "You know, I found a sweater that I think would be perfect to wear to dinner tonight."</i>	
Robert packs his belongings every day and tells you he is leaving.	<i>Take time to interact. Say, "It sounds like you have some things on your mind..." Do active listening and let Robert talk.</i>	
Louise sits on the couch alone. The TV is on. She looks frightened.	<i>(Consider turning off the tv) Slip next to Louise and reassuringly say, "Do you have time to visit with me?"</i>	
Mable knocks over a glass of milk for the fourth time this week.	<i>Avoid reprimand...smile and say, "Oh, accidents happen!" and quickly meet the needs of the situation. (You will deserve an Oscar!)</i>	