(commissioned by Aichi Prefecture)

Living a happy life with dementia

- Aiming at a society with prosocial relationship-



······Dementia as social interaction difficulties ······

In our social lives, we are required to control our words, actions, as well as our feelings, and maintain our relationships with others according to the circumstances. However, such control becomes increasingly difficult for people with dementia. For example, people with forgetfulness have difficulty with self-reflection because they forget their own words and actions. In addition, they have difficulty understanding their situations and acting efficiently, and it becomes increasingly difficult for them to express their problems to others in words.

However, people with dementia would be able to enjoy their social lives with people around them if these people show consideration for them.



A society, in which people with dementia are addressed in a special manner and people around them are forced to be tolerant toward them, would not benefit either party. By accepting these people as friends, participants as well as consumers, and supporting their daily lives and work to a reasonable extent, they and their supporters may be able to maintain a relationship in which both parties can appreciate each other.

······Prosocial relation-based care ······

Please imagine "what difficulty the person has" instead of thinking "whether they have dementia or not". When it seems that they have no particular problem, please keep a wait-and-see attitude toward them. Please talk to them when you are not sure whether they have a problem. Please listen to them, and refrain from forcing them to understand your ideas. Please try to be as casual as possible when approaching them, because some of them do not want to talk about their problems with others.

Each person with dementia has his/her own personality and situation. Therefore, the way to address them differs according to the circumstances. Please use this brochure as a support guide instead of as a support manual. When talking to people with dementia, please think with them about how they should be supported.



Compared with when being in other places, people with dementia may become more nervous at a bank as they feel the need to protect their important assets. It is required for the staff to ask them to respect the rules, but please sympathize with their feelings and let them feel comfortable.

When a person has delusions of theft

When people with dementia claim to "have had their belongings stolen", this is true from their perspective, and so denying the claim is meaningless. They may become angry or agitated if they feel that they are being criticized for the wrong reason in front of other people.

Please show sympathy for "their concerns" instead of for "their claim." If you sympathize with "their claim", their delusions may become stronger. Showing sympathy for their concerns, please try to show the attitude to resolve their problems together.

When a person has violated the rules (e.g., not waiting their turn)

People with dementia may commonly have difficulty understanding the social rules and, when they are preoccupied with their personal concerns, it may be difficult for them to be considerate of others. Under such circumstances, it may be hard to make them understand that they are inconveniencing others. Staff should politely tell them about how long they need to wait before their turn. Please consider how to achieve their understanding about the need to wait for their turn, instead of prioritizing it only because they have dementia and inconveniencing other customers. The solution in which all the customers, including people with dementia, feel comfortable, is desirable.





accepting their actions to a reasonable extent. In some cases, it is necessary for clerks to ask them to understand the rule that they need to pay for items. Please consider how to achieve their understanding about the rules to enjoy shopping with other constomers.



among the store staff and when they come to the store, the staff should help packing staff should, confirming with the receipt.













Case This person went to a drugstore to purchase the same bathing powder he had previously used. He described the color and the size of the container of the item to a clerk without telling the name of the item. The clerk intently listened to the person, understood that he was looking for bathing powder from the keyword "item used in a bathtub", and guided him to the right area. The clerk did not seem to care about whether they have dementia or not, and brought another clerk who was familiar to the area when the person said he was having difficulty locating what he wanted.

Bathing

powder

This drugstore is often visited by elderly people and, regardless of whether they have dementia or not, clerks politely listen to them and help them locate what they want. These clerks may not have knowledge on dementia, but the abovementioned person is satisfied with the store's services. When talking with people with dementia, thinking from their perspective may be more important than having knowledge about dementia.









Some passengers, including people with dementia, miss touching IC card readers and/or forget to take their numbered ticket. Although it is often difficult for them to adjust to new techniques, the introduction of IC cards has provided some people with easier access to public transportation. Easy-to-understand displays and voice guidance are desirable for people with dementia. For people who take the same route frequently, drivers may be able to keep track of their situation by handing over necessary information to their counterparts.

They may forget their destination while on the bus. If a bus schedule is delayed because the driver is occupied to deal with a person with dementia, other passengers may suffer inconvenience, such as being late for their appointment or missing the train. Please ask for the passengers' cooperation.



People with dementia are less likely to notice danger associated with public transportation. If they are alerted to the danger in a loud voice, they may think that they are being scolded, or become agitated. To ensure that passengers, including people with dementia, utilize trains comfortably, please address them politely.













Public facilities need to be considerate of their users, including people with dementia, in a manner enabling them to use the facilities comfortably.

Libraries

Many people with dementia enjoy spending time in libraries. Some do not turn the pages of newspapers, and some just sit on a chair without reading any books. However, when they seem to have no problem, please keep a wait-and-see attitude toward them. They may feel uncomfortable staying in the library if a staff member talks to them. It would sometimes save their pride to pretend not noticing their difficulties.

Group activities

People with dementia often misunderstand what they have promised, have difficulty adapting to various circumstances, hesitate to participate in activities, and/or become homebound.

In order for them to be able to continue participating in group activities even after the onset of dementia, staff members are expected to support them, protect them from trouble, and help them nurture a favorable relationship with other group members. Keeping social interaction may delay progression of dementia.







The police officers should ideally become acquainted with community residents including people with dementia so that they can lead safe and stable lives in the community.

Wandering around

When people with dementia are taken into custody by the police, their belonging are the best sources to clarify their names and contact information. In some cases, their names are on things they wear (e.g., clothes and shoes), their belongings with their contact information written on them are put in their bag, and their phone number is on their key chains. It is important for them to keep items that are easy to carry and provide a clue to their identification (e.g., a piece of paper showing their contact information or the records of driver's license) in their wallet/purse or pocket.

Items they are not used to carrying, such as a mobile phone with GPS, are often discarded by them when wandering around. It is important to choose their belongings according to their lifestyles.

Families are encouraged to enroll in the wandering registry. Please ask for the community cooperation for the safe return.



To support people with dementia, it is important to imagine

"what you would like other people to do for you if you became such a person."



You may want to hide the fact that you require support.

When someone points out your mistake, you may desire not to see them again.

Your desire to go out may disappear because you do not want to inconvenience others.

If someone talks to you when you are confused, you may be relieved.

If someone talks to you in a cheerful way when you have difficulty organizing your thoughts,

you may be glad.

You may desire to live a normal social life.

You may enjoy having a pleasant day by going out and communicating with people.

Your purpose of shopping may be not only to purchase daily necessities,

but also to interact with others.

Please consider "how to have a pleasant time with the elderly",

regardless of whether they have dementia or not.

To ensure that people with dementia and people around them utilize shops and other facilities comfortably,

we should intently listen to them, which may be more important than having knowledge on dementia.

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