
ABSTRACT

Interplay processes of elderly persons with dementia and their caretakers using light clay

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The purpose of this study is to reveal the effects of using light clay to promote conversation among elderly persons with dementia. Sixteen elderly persons with dementia were recruited. Three conditions of conversation were compared; using light clay, using coloring work, and conversation only. The data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively, using frequency of conversation, frequency of eye contact, forehead tilt angle, content of conversation and skin temperature. The results show that the use of light clay promotes significantly more frequency in conversation and eye contact, compared to the use of coloring work. The use of light clay also shows a higher level of forehead tilt angle and skin temperature, indicating higher levels of interest. The results of this study prove that the use of light clay promotes conversation among elderly persons with dementia, or between them and their caretakers.

Key Words: elderly persons, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, light clay, communication
