

U AND UNIVERSAL

Aging, Dementia, and people with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities:

The number of people with dementia is expected to rise from 40 million in 2010 to 120 million by 2050. As people with intellectual and developmental disabilities age, they are also susceptible to these issues.

It is recommended by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities that those who provide supports pay close attention to changes in people with developmental and intellectual disabilities as they grow older.

What to watch for:

- Disorientation: confusion about what day of the week it is or what time it is.
- Any decrease in function: any change in not being able to do something that the person could do before.
- Memory loss: especially short term.
- Paranoia: the person becomes suspicious about people they normally trust.
- Any changes in mood, motivation, and personality
- Behavioral changes: the person has the opposite behavior than normal.

There is still much research to do, however, make sure any changes you notice gets passed along to the person's physician.

This information can be found at activebeat.com or through the NCCDD

Did you know?

Universal has numerous on-going quality improvement projects.

Some of the projects are:

- Improving on-call response
- Improving program outcomes
- Increasing functional back up staffing
- Tracking customer service through satisfaction surveys

These are just a few of the ongoing quality improvement projects taking place at Universal.

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