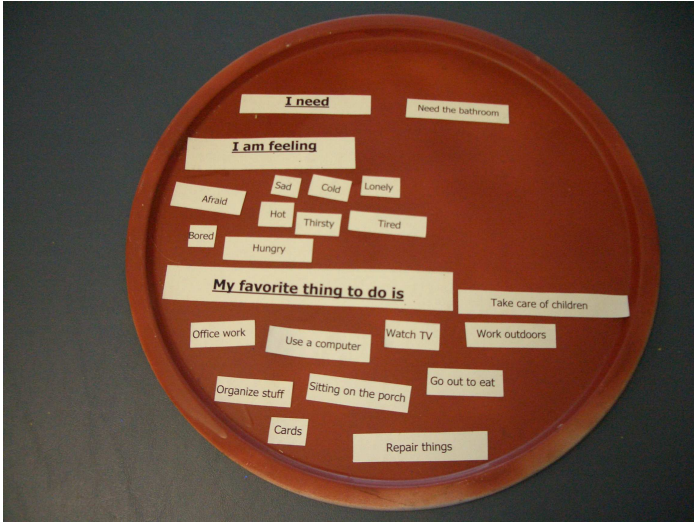


## Message Magnets©



Bags

Encourage the resident to use the magnets as a way of communicating with staff, family members, and alert residents. The magnets can be stacked, sorted, put on the refrigerator, cookie sheet, etc. This item is useful for individuals of all functioning levels. The message magnets allow the residents to use their hands and helps them to communicate and organize their thoughts.

**Cues for this action:** “Here are some magnets with words on them. You can use them to make a sentence.”

*Demonstrate* - Make a sentence using one of the seven phrases in bold print and match with an appropriate noun or adjective (ex. I am tired). *Using the same phrase or a different one* - “Now you decide how you would complete this sentence.”

### Promotes:

1. Socialization and communication.
2. Eye-hand skills.
3. Reach, grasp, and release skills.

### Discussion ideas:

Base questions on sentence resident forms with magnets. For example, if a resident forms the sentence, “I am good at sewing,” one possible question you could ask them is, “What kind of things did you use to sew.”

### Needs:

- Cookie sheet or metal TV tray (made of metal that will attract magnets)
- White or other solid color Contac™ paper to cover cookie sheet or tray
- Scraps of magnetic sheeting (available from a shop that makes signs)
- 2” wide Scotch™ or other clear mailing tape
- 3 colorful fabric remnants each 8” x 16”
- Craft knife or single-edged razor blade
- Glue stick

NOTE: You may be able to get scraps of magnetic sheeting for free if you tell the people at your local shop what it’s for.

## Instructions

### Magnets

Cut magnet sheeting into 1" wide. The sheeting cuts easily with regular sheers.

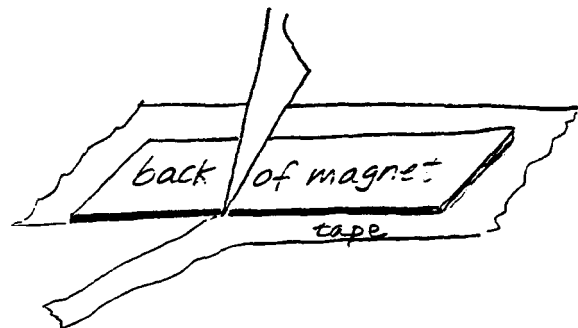
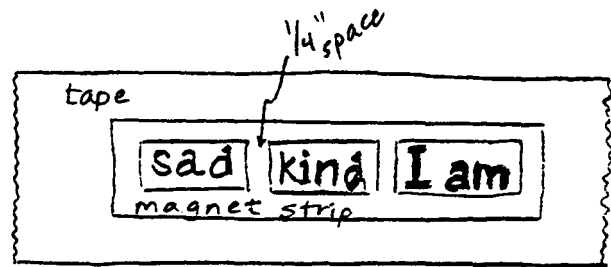
Cut out the vocabulary words or phrases (included in these instructions ready to use) so that the slips of paper with the words on them are about 1/2" wide (to fit the 1" wide magnetic strip).

Put a bit of glue on the back of each word or phrase and stick the slip of paper to the magnetic strip as shown. Glue a whole row of words or phrases to the magnetic strip, leaving about 1/4" in between the slips of paper.

Cut off a piece of clear tape about 2" longer than the magnetic strip. Carefully place the tape over the slips of paper and the magnetic strip, rubbing the tape to make sure it sticks evenly and smoothly.

Turn the taped magnetic strip face down on a pad of newspaper or piece of cardboard. Using a craft knife or single-edge razor blade, trim off the excess tape all around the magnetic strip as shown.

Cut the magnetic strip apart between the vocabulary words or phrases so that each slip of paper with its word or phrase is taped down around all four of its edges.

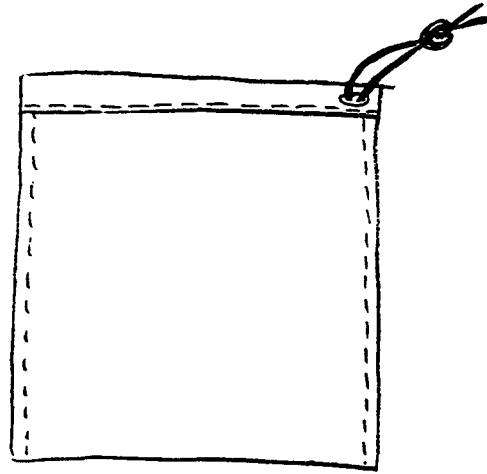


## Bags

Fold each piece of fabric in half.  
Allowing 1/2" seam allowance, sew up the sides,  
forming square bags.

Clip top 1-1/2" of seam close to stitching.  
Fold over 3/4" hem and stitch close to edge forming  
casing.

Cut a small hole in the casing. Lace a 20" piece of  
shoelace or strong cord through the casing. Knot  
securely.



Turn bag right side out. Put the magnets in the bags  
by category: one bag for **I am** and the vocabulary  
words that go with it; one bag for **Can I please** and  
the vocabulary words that go with it, and one bag for  
all the rest of the magnets.

## Cookie sheet or tray

Make sure there are no rough edges. Cover the top  
surface with Contac™ paper to hide visually  
confusing decorative designs, shiny surfaces, or  
imperfections.

NOTE: Light colored spray paint can be used instead  
of Contac™ paper.

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Buettner, L. & Greenstein, D. (1997). Simple Pleasures: A multi-level sensorimotor intervention for nursing home residents with dementia. (Training manual and instructions)

**I miss Can I please**

**I love I'd rather be**

**I can usually I am**

**I don't like**

**I love to eat**

**I am good at**

**looking out the window**

**get myself dressed**                      **sad**

**pick out my own clothes**

**take care of myself**                      **tired**

**make friends easily**                      **proud**

**meat and potatoes**                      **angry**

**cakes and pies**                      **working**

**vegetable from my garden**

**singing songs**

**hungry**

**at a party**

**happy**

**watching a movie**

**lonely**

**ashamed**

**annoyed**

**irritated**

**sleepy**

**go for a walk**

**glad**

**go to bed**

**have a drink**

**watching TV**

**thirsty**

**fresh fruit**

**housework**

**taking care of others**

**bored**

**playing cards**

**gardening**

**playing piano**

**woodworking**

**knitting**

**crocheting**

**sitting under a tree**

**kind**

**sitting in a church**

**sad**

**singing hymns**

**reading**

**having a snack**

**dancing**

**sit by the window**

**watch TV**

**find my friend**

**ice cream**

**listening to music**

**singing**

**going to church**

**desserts**

**enjoying myself**

**sewing**

**walk by myself**

**fishing**

**write a letter**

**cooking**



**my house**

**children**

**my apartment**

**my kids**

**my dog**

**my grandchildren**

**my cat**

**warm weather**

**my daughter**

**snow**

**my son**

**holidays**

**my husband**

**a hot bath**

**my wife**

**the ocean**