

# A Study of the Meaning When Nursing Home Care Staff Members Look through Picture Books with Elderly People with Dementia

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The number of elderly people with dementia has been increasing. There is thus a need to think about communication methods between nursing home care staff and elderly people with dementia.

This purpose of this study is to examine the meaning when nursing home care staff members look through picture books with elderly people with dementia. For this study, the author observed nursing home care staff members looking through picture books with the elderly patients and conducted interviews with nursing home care staff members about their feelings and situations. First, the author analyzes changes in the feelings of the nursing home care staff members by analyzing data from the interviews. As a result, nine change points are extracted. Secondly, the author highlights a specific episode regarding change points. The results indicate four important observations: 1) the nursing home care staff members' understanding about elderly people with dementia grew deeper; 2) nursing home care staff members react and change their behavior and feelings regarding elderly people with dementia; 3) nursing home care staff members realize that they should share things with elderly people with dementia; and 4) nursing home care staff members come to feel that they desire more involvement with elderly people with dementia. Previous studies have not shown any revelations regarding the feelings of people that look through picture books at nursing homes, and the studies also show that not volunteers but nursing home care staff members look through picture books with elderly people with dementia. This study highlights the possibility of nursing home care staff members beginning to think more deeply about the lives of elderly people with dementia.