

LOOK-INSIDE PURSE OR BRIEFCASE



Encourage the resident to open the purse, box or briefcase to see what is inside. Make sure items inside the purse are not small enough to be ingested. This item is useful for individuals of all functioning levels to allow them to rummage through or organize their belongings. Good to have at nursing station for restless residents.

Cues for this action: “Here is a purse. Let’s see what is inside of it. Can you reorganize this for me, it’s a mess!” *Demonstrate* - Show the resident how to open the purse and take out an item that is inside. *Return the purse to the resident and cue* - “You open the purse and see what is inside.”

Promotes:

1. Sense of security and opportunity to keep important stuff nearby.
2. Normalizing ways to provide items to interact with.
3. Use of hands.
4. Diversional activity when resident needs a distraction.

Discussion Ideas:

Did you carry a purse or a briefcase?

What did you put in your purse or briefcase?

Did you ever lose your purse? What happened?

LOOK-INSIDE PURSES

Choose a medium-size vinyl, or fabric purse that has:

- several compartments
- easy-to-open catches
- easy-to-use zippers (attach a keychain or loop of yarn or ribbon to the zipper tab)

Using wide cellophane tape and glue, attach labels on both sides of the purse that say “**LOOK INSIDE**”. Or write the words directly on the purse with “dimensional fabric & craft paint” available at fabric and craft stores.

Include “treasures” in the purse’s compartments.

Make sure the items are safe, and that they can’t be pulled into pieces small enough to eat. Don’t include any items that look like or smell like food.

***Review the contents of the purse with nursing or activity staff at the facility.**

Do include:

- garden gloves or fancy gloves
- necklaces/bracelets (nothing that comes apart) -- no earrings or pins handkerchiefs
- small picture books
- inexpensive wallets and change purses play dollar bills
- small calendars
- junk mail, grocery coupons, or sheets of mail-order stamps
- balled-up pairs of socks (clean, no holes)
- small rulers
- greeting cards, especially musical greeting cards
- small pads of paper
- small address books
- small mail order catalogs
- inexpensive calculators (solar powered -- no batteries)
- sun glasses
- silky-feeling scarves and kerchiefs
- key rings with keys no longer needed by you
- pencils, pens
- small photographs -- especially children and babies (protected by plastic)

LOOK-INSIDE BRIEFCASES, ATTACHE CASES, TOTE BAGS

Choose a medium-size box/case or bag that has:

- several compartments
- easy-to-open catches
- an easy-to-hold handle

Using wide cellophane tape and glue, attach labels on both sides of the box/case that say **“LOOK INSIDE”**. Or write the words directly on the box/case with “dimensional fabric & craft paint” available at fabric and craft stores.

Include “treasures” in the box/case’s compartments.

Make sure the items are safe, and that they can’t be pulled into pieces small enough to eat. Don’t include any items that look like or smell like food.

***Review the contents of the box/case with nursing or activity staff at the facility**

Do include:

- work gloves or fancy gloves
- bandanas
- small picture books of fishes, water fowl, etc.
- small rulers
- brochures about golf, vacation spots, hunting, etc.
- small pads of paper with pencil or pen small
- mail order catalogs of mens clothing/ hunting equipment/etc.

- men's sun glasses
- key rings with keys no longer needed by you
- billfold with play money
- greeting cards, especially musical greeting cards
- small address books
- collection of business cards
- small solar powered calculators (no batteries)
- small calendars
- silky feeling scarves
- junk mail, advertising brochures, sheets of mail-order stamps