

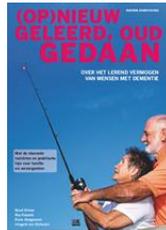
# Dutch Dementia Care during Covid-19 pandemic



UNECE Policy Webinar  
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## Introduction

- ▶ Initiator and co-author of 5 books:



- ▶ Director of DAZ = bureau for healthcare-innovation
- ▶ Projectleader of diverse innovatory (dementia)projects (such as DemenTalent, opening closed care units, more action and movement in elderly care, using learning ability, handling the increase of emotional life, new modern equipment).
- ▶ Trainer and process mentor.
- ▶ Member supervisory board group nursing homes



Alternative ways of visiting the elderly in nursing homes ...

But.... Most people with dementia live at home, not in a nursing home.

The need for looking closer to the possibilities of people with dementia is growing, because of:

- ▶ More loneliness
- ▶ Less visit and support by family
- ▶ Higher workload professionals (illness, more to do)
- ▶ Closed day-care, closed meeting centres, closed community centres

## Two examples of modern solutions

- ▶ Using the learning ability of people with dementia for video calling
- ▶ DemenTalent

## Yes, people with dementia can learn

- ▶ *Learn as well as unlearn.*
- ▶ Learning makes limitations manageable.
- ▶ In every stage of dementia learning is possible. However, the more progressed the dementia has, the more difficult it gets.
- ▶ Mostly it is about ‘automatic learning’.
- ▶ Scientifically proven.
- ▶ It asks for a specific guidance by familymembers and professional care-givers.

## Ways of learning with dementia

- ▶ **Errorless learning:** doing an activity together, keep repeating, avoid making mistakes.
- ▶ **Associative learning:** use old and new associations. Use all senses.
- ▶ **Emotional learning:** knowingly evoke emotions and make them explicit.
- ▶ **Operant learning:** reward and ‘punish’

Learning in steps: to connect different processes of learning with each other.



## Using learning ability > Image calling

- ▶ People with dementia are using a lot of video calling. In the nursinghomes with help of caregivers.
- ▶ At home they are self reliant. They have learned to do it themselves.
- ▶ The learning method used is operant learning; using rewards.
- ▶ Don't explain they are using a computer, just let them experience having contact when they touch a photo on the touchscreen. At that moment the reward is huge, so they learn.

- ▶ After just repeating a few times the people with dementia will know how it works, because of the big reward.
- ▶ Similar with answering incoming calls by family or healthcare workers.



# Policy

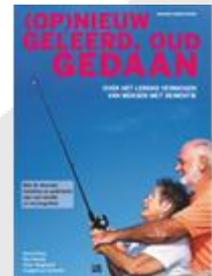
The Dutch national government arranged a regulation that elderlycare organisations are able to give tablets to Elderly people for E-health. It is often used.

I wrote two instructions/guidelines about learning how to use a tabletcomputer by people with dementia: one for family and one for caregivers.

You can find them on the Dutch website about the learning abilities of people with dementie:



[www.opnieuwgeleerdoudgedaan.nl](http://www.opnieuwgeleerdoudgedaan.nl)



# DemenTalent

= People with dementia volunteering in society. Normally in schools, leisure- and sportclubs, scouting, musea, shops. Yes they can! A great project!

At these COVID-times more outdoors. In nature for example.



Thanks for your attention.

Are there any questions?

You can also E-mail me: [ruud@anderszorgen.nl](mailto:ruud@anderszorgen.nl)