

High-Tech experience for those with dementia at Donald Berman Maimonides and Donald Berman Jewish Eldercare

Thanks to the Foundation, Donald Berman Maimonides and Donald Berman Jewish Eldercare are the first long-term care Centres in Quebec and the second in Canada to use an immersive interactive experience specifically designed for those with dementia. Invented in the Netherlands, the Tovertafel, also known as the Magic Table, is a ceiling-based projector that shines multi-coloured lights creating magical life-like images onto a table. The people playing sit around the table and respond to the lights with hand-movements detected by a sensor.

One of the games that long-term care residents with advanced dementia enjoy is beach ball. “By touching the ball, it moves and the next person can touch it. What is great about this is that they don’t need to hit it with force. With the use of sensors, even a light touch moves the ball,” says Valerie Larochelle, from Eugeria, the exclusive distributor of the product in Quebec.

There are many games to choose from — puzzles and whack-a-mole to popping bubbles, playing with leaves, a ballerina music box and sports. They are offered in a variety of levels depending on the functioning capabilities of those playing.

Research has demonstrated that Tovertafel helps decrease some of the behaviours associated with dementia, such as wandering and agitation. There are also therapeutic benefits, since the games target physical, cognitive, social and emotional well-being.



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