

PeopleFirst Case Study

“The SR-Cognition Kit provides structure for treatment with exercises and activities that support functional goals at a reasonable price. It is up to date and easy to use.”

- **Michelle Tristani, Rehab Clinical Specialist for PeopleFirst Rehab**

The Situation/ Problem

Mike Laccinole and Michelle Longmuir Wilkes, two Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) at PeopleFirst Rehab commented how limited functional intervention tools were for dementia therapy and how they were required to piece together activities from different workbooks to try and meet the rehabilitative needs of their clients.

Michelle Tristani, SLP and Rehab Clinical Specialist for PeopleFirst Rehab, added that the products the therapists had been using were generally outdated.

Joanna Boyer and Terri Tarnoff Snyder, both licensed and practicing SLPs, made the same observations when they decided to launch Speech Remedy and develop the SR-Cognition Kit and other materials focused on adult speech language rehabilitation.

The Solution: SR- Cognition Products

“The SR-Cognition Kit provides structure for treatment with exercises and activities that support functional goals at a reasonable price. It is up to date and easy to use,” says Michelle Tristani.

According to Mr. Laccinole, “most speech-language therapy materials are oriented towards children. The SR-Cognition Kit and card sets are very appropriate for adults.”

When Ms. Longmuir Wilkes received her SR-Cognition Kit, she was very pleased exclaiming, “this is an all-encompassing kit. It is convenient to carry and accommodates different clients; in-patient, out-patient and home care. Using it is extremely efficient and easy. I don’t have to search out different materials; all the materials are in one kit. With the laminated workbook and dry erase marker, I don’t have to run to make copies.”

Situation/ Problem

Limited and outdated speech therapy tools to meet the needs of their diverse patient population, including in-patient, out-patient and home care.

Solution

An integrated kit (SR- Cognition) that provides a broad range of tools to meet the needs of their patients.

Results

- Increased efficiency, job satisfaction.
- Improved quality of care.
- Builds patient confidence and safety.
- Prepares patient for more independent living.

Julie Kaplan, another PeopleFirst SLP, remarked “It is easy to use and is well organized, with simple, yet appropriate, directions and a progression of functional tasks from less difficult to more difficult, making it easy to organize therapy sessions and assign appropriate level tasks.” Further, it has all that is needed need to work with patients and support the development of cognitive linguistic programs.

Cynthia Featherston, SLP, enjoys having all of her therapy needs in one place and adds “the exercises are appropriate for patients at various levels, with up-to-date stimuli and realistic photos that can be adapted to any age.” She also recognizes the functionality of the products, recalling how “one of [her] patients said she was going to take the strategies listed in the kit and use them at home.”

SR-Cognition Products improve Quality of Care, Efficiency and SLP Job Satisfaction

Michelle Tristani asserted “the similarity between treatment activities and day-to-day functions is very helpful. It helps patients transition from skilled speech pathology treatment to patient independence. It increases safety awareness in the home and assisted living environment. It increases patient confidence because the patient recognizes they are making progress. It is easy to see by virtue of the exercises that they can accomplish.”

“It increases my productivity and enjoyment of my job,” exclaimed Julie Kaplan. “I’m having a lot of fun with it.” As a clinical mentor, Ms. Kaplan remarks “the kit is especially good for a beginning therapist. It will help them to learn the progression of therapy and provide all the materials they need for treatment.”

Cynthia Featherston commented how the portability of the kit improves efficiency because she “can go from room to room to work with patients; they don’t have to come to me.”

Michelle Longmuir Wilkes explained that she would “recommend this kit to all of her colleagues. The materials improve quality of care, by providing ample resources and stimuli for therapy. I don’t have to use the same thing over and over and I can encourage progress by adapting the exercises to the patient’s most effective learning style.”

Since using the SR-Cognition Kit and other materials, Mike Laccinole stated “there has been a measurable decrease in the number of patient falls due to better problem-solving and safety awareness training. The products have allowed for greater structure during functional maintenance programs designed for patients at risk of falls.” He recognizes that “it is very adaptable and provides a format and structure for all disciplines (including Occupational and Physical Therapy) to deliver more effective intervention services and get better results from therapy.”

“I absolutely recommend this kit to colleagues. It enables an easy transition from treatment to day-to-day outcomes, as there is a carryover of learned skills into modified independent living environments.” Michelle Tristani declared. “We have an initial core team of SLPs currently using the kit and have plans to expand usage.”