

Tovertafel - Magic Table



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“A magic table creating moments of happiness for people living with dementia and all those around them.”

“Dementia is one of the biggest public health challenges we’re facing over the coming decades...we are delighted to lead the way and enable all those living with dementia, and their carers, to have easy access to this amazing invention.” - Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot

The Tovertafel Original was developed for and with people in the moderate to severe stages of dementia. The interactive games break through apathy by stimulating both physical and cognitive activity and encouraging social interaction. Moreover, the Tovertafel creates treasured moments with family members and carers. These games are all about enjoyment and wonder.



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The installation of Magic Tables into four libraries across the borough - Uxbridge, Botwell Green, Northwood Hills and Ruislip Manor - has been part of the borough's commitment to becoming dementia friendly.

“The games have had a huge impact on our library's local community. We've seen people living with dementia participating in social activities and increasing their physical movement.

For example, we had an elderly gentleman visit with his daughter. He joined a group Magic Table session that was running. Initially, he didn't participate in the session. However, when the fishes game came on, it prompted a memory which saw him react to the lights and start to talk (of that memory) with those around the table. His daughter described it as a light being switched on. It was a lovely moment they shared together.”



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“I met an elderly man who visited the library with his carer. He was quite withdrawn and didn’t show many signs of interaction. He sat down at the table and, knowing football had been his passion in life, we put the football game on. Suddenly, his eyes lit up, as he started to respond to the game, trying to move the ball around the table.”

“We also had a lady visit the library who was in a wheelchair and had limited physical movement. Initially she was quite passive in her chair, but with some gentle encouragement, she took a foam tube (which we use as props for those with limited mobility) and started sweeping leaves off the table. It was great to see her become active in this way.



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