

COMPANIONSHIP MATTERS

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Greater relative happiness is an important quality of life indicator for older adults in assisted living (Eshelman & Evans, 2002). Smith and Hogan (1987) explore the relationship between the nurse's efforts and how effectively senior citizens can carry out everyday tasks at assisted living facilities. This study expands previous research by looking at the relationship between the physical environment of an active older adult and related the emotional aspects to examine how they adapt to assisted living facilities. Data was collected through series of open-ended interviews with 10 older adults in assisted living facilities in the southeast. Results indicate many assisted living residents are more concerned about companionship and staying active socially than room size or living quarters. These findings are beneficial to interior designers and assisted living managers designing social spaces for assisted living facilities.