



Ice Cream Truck

Administrator:

Ms. Wanda Allie

Crowne Health Care & Rehab of Montgomery, LLC

1837 Upper Wetumpka
Montgomery, Alabama 36107
(334) 264-8416

Our Best Practice is simply called, “Ice Cream Truck.” It is a throwback to the good old days when neighborhoods had the almost forgotten “Ice Cream Truck.” Our Activity department has created an innovative and fun way to develop a mobile “Ice Cream Truck” that visits every resident. It is an entertaining and creative way that, along with providing snacks and hydration, triggers memories of childhood.

The purpose of the “Ice Cream Truck” is twofold. It helps bring back memories of our resident’s childhood. It is a great reminiscing tool for our residents and provides staff the opportunity to socialize with the resident. Our “Ice Cream Truck” has the authentic sounds of an old-fashioned ice cream truck from back in the day. Another purpose is that our “Ice Cream Truck” is a fun way to encourage our residents to eat a high calorie snack and get extra hydration. It is very beneficial for those residents who also may be at risk for weight loss. It also helps to prevent dehydration.

This practice is specifically designed for our facility residents that are able to receive oral nutrition. We offer a wide variety of items on our ice cream truck that meets the diet needs of all our residents. Residents that are on special diets, (Mechanical soft, pureed, thickened liquids, etc.) are all able to enjoy some type of treat! We buy sugar free items for our residents who are diabetic or prefer a sugar free snack. We coordinate with our nursing staff, and our CNA’s assist those residents that need assistance with feeding. We offer ice cream in cups for those that may not be able to physically handle a cone due to physical limitations such as arthritis or contractures. Cups are also helpful for those that need extra time eating as compared to a cone that may cause a slight mess due to melting. And nobody likes to waste ice cream!

The Ice Cream Truck has created much enjoyment and excitement among both our residents and staff as well as family members! The residents get excited when they can hear the sounds of the ice cream truck approaching in the hallways. The music can be heard throughout the facility and staff members have commented on how their residents start to get excited with the anticipation of the truck getting closer. Residents with dementia have shown remarkable verbal and physical cues when they hear the sounds of the old-fashioned ice cream truck. It triggers memories from their childhood and they remember things that they used to buy and eat from the ice cream truck back in their day! The joy and happiness that fills the air along with the music encourages our residents to select something to eat, even for those residents who tend to refuse their daytime snack. The residents tend to congregate at the ice cream truck with much eagerness and it truly looks like a line of young people anxiously waiting to put in their order! Residents can be heard reminiscing together and talking about their childhood when they would chase the ice cream truck down the street! Residents seem to be encouraged by others and feel obligated to enjoy a refreshing treat!