Sensory Activities

**Basketball:** Even very confused residents can enjoy bucketball. Use a large cardboard container or a plastic wastebasket, weighted down in the bottom, & encourage residents to throw the ball in to it. Cheer them when they make it, encourage them when they don't. You can take this to bedside residents & hold the up so they can try to shoot.  
  
**Bean Bag Toss:** Gather several boxes & label them with numbers. Place these at different distances from the residents. Let the resident toss bean bags into them, giving them points for the ones they get the bag in. Cheer them on  
  
**Button, Button**: Fill a large clear plastic peanut butter jar with buttons of all colors, shapes & sizes. Ladies may respond more to this than men. Empty some buttons out on the table or bed tray & let resident's sort through them. Ask them to notice the many different kinds. Notice that some sparkle, are square, colors etc. Ask how many red ones they can find. Guess how many are in the jar. Ask if they remember collecting mussels to sell to button factories. Ask them to find the biggest buttons. Ask them if they ever sewed & attached buttons.  
  
**Clay:** Rolling clay & shaping it can be great exercise for stiff fingers as well as fun. Work with residents individually or with a small group gathered around a table. Clay seems to be less messy though a little stiffer than play dough. You can buy clay in the toy section of the store.  
  
**Coloring**: Many residents - alert, confused, or mentally retarded -- like to color. Sit down with them; you color one page of the coloring book while they color the opposite page. That way, they will fell less alone in doing activity children enjoy.  
  
**Nuts & Bolts**: Bring a small plastic toolbox to a bedside that has been filled with various sizes of nuts, bolts, & washers. This works well with men who have been mechanics or worked with their hands using tools. Let them examine the box & put the nuts & washers on the bolts. Perhaps you can have a small block of wood enclosed in the box that has holes drilled in it so residents can fit the bolts through & secure them. Even confused residents would enjoy this one.  
Sorting: Fill a box with bolts, nuts & washers, all together. Ask them to separate these into 3 jars.

]I work in a small facility with only 38 residents we have a variety of functions but with the eye contact no response I **use passive range of motion, music with head phones, chit chat (even though they cannot talk back, book reading, massages, and books with pictures or magazines sometimes family photos**

Wheel Chair Dancing  
Story Time  
Poetry Reading  
Props Story Telling  
Sweet Scents  
Wheel Chair Patio Tours (Weather Permitting)

In our low sensory groups among other things we offer pieces of fabric (about 4 - 6 inches square) on a ring - you'd have maybe 20 pieces of fabric on the ring - with the different textures and colors they seem to enjoy the feel of the fabric, and some, who may have sewn have even spoken a bit. We also have a "hover-ball" we purchased at McFrougles, it is blown up with helium and they can bat at it in the air. We've gotten people to move their arms that might otherwise never move at all. We also had a volunteer who was willling to sew us about a dozen busy aprons that gives them something to "fiddle" with their fingers.