Caring for Combative Residents

PART 1

Forms of Combative Behavior:
- Physical
- Verbal

Understand Reasons for Combative Behavior:
- Health
- Medication
- Unskilled Care
- Environmental (loud noise, temperature, conflict with other residents, etc.)

Learn How to Prevent Combative Behaviors - Some Tips!
- Approach clients slowly and calmly
- Maintain personal space with client - don’t crowd them
- Present non-threatening body language:
  - Use slow and deliberate movements
  - Avoid any sudden or threatening gestures
  - Reassure client with calm, soothing voice and smiles
- Break down tasks into simple steps
- Look for clues - that trigger or suggest combative behavior such as:
  - Anxiety
  - Depression
  - Aggressive or defensive attitude/behavior towards other clients
- Distract the client’s attention from the irritant with:
  - Music
  - Snack
  - Conversation
  - Structured activities such as a game or household chore.

Remember... Behavior Effects Behavior!