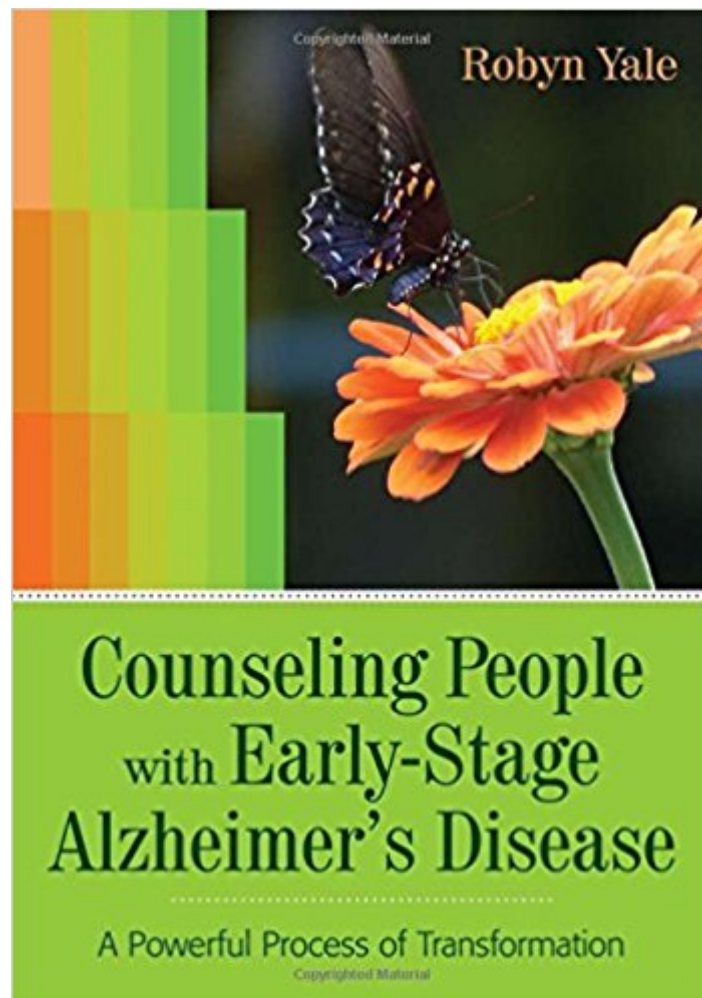




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# Counseling People With Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease: A Powerful Process Of Transformation



## Synopsis

People with early dementia face enormous challenges in coping with their condition, yet they typically receive no personalized education or support following the diagnosis. Counseling empowers them to understand and come to terms with the illness while also learning to manage and make healthy adaptations to it. With the rapid increase in people diagnosed with early memory impairment and demand for better support services this groundbreaking new guide gives you essential tools to become an integral partner in a process that helps people adjust to the many changes in their lives. Presenting an innovative new counseling framework designed around the unique problems and needs arising from dementia, *Counseling People with Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease* guides the counselor and client through the many emotional, practical, and lifestyle issues to be faced. In her new and easy-to-follow protocol, Robyn Yale an internationally renowned expert on early-stage support groups explores topics that include identity and self-esteem, resilience, relating to and educating others, stress management, and more. You will come away with an expanded repertoire of specialized skills and support roles including coach, care planner, mediator, communications specialist, and problem solver that will dramatically improve your ability to assist people with early dementia to work through complex emotions tap into useful coping mechanisms focus on capabilities adapt to practical circumstances in their day-to-day activities retain maximum autonomy over lifestyle preferences find new ways to move forward with their lives. At the heart of this approach is the unique story behind each relationship forged between the person with dementia and the counselor. It is sure to spark inspiration and self-discovery in yourself and in those with whom you work!

## Book Information

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Publisher: Health Professions Press; People with early dementia face enormous challenges in coping with their condition, yet they typically receive no personalized education or support following the diagnosis. Counseling empowers them to understand and come to terms with the illness while also learning to manage and make healthy adaptations to it. With the rapid increase in people diagnosed with early memory impairment\_and demand for better support services\_this groundbreaking new guide gives you essential tools to become an integral partner in a process that helps people adjust to the many changes in their lives. Presenting an innovative new counseling framework designed around the unique problems and needs arising from dementia, *Counseling People with Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease* guides the counselor and client through the many

emotional, practical, and lifestyle issues to be faced. In her new and easy-to-follow protocol, Robyn Yale—an internationally renowned expert on early-stage support groups—explores topics that include identity and self-esteem, resilience, relating to and educating others, stress management, and more. You will come away with an expanded repertoire of specialized skills and support roles—including coach, care planner, mediator, communications specialist, and problem solver—that will dramatically improve your ability to assist people with early dementia to work through complex emotions and tap into useful coping mechanisms and focus on capabilities and adapt to practical circumstances in their day-to-day activities and retain maximum autonomy over lifestyle preferences and find new ways to move forward with their lives. At the heart of this approach is the unique story behind each relationship forged between the person with dementia and the counselor. It is sure to spark inspiration and self-discovery in yourself and in those with whom you work! edition (August 20, 2013)

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## Customer Reviews

This important book fills a critical gap in caring for the person in a culture where emphasis is often placed on the disease. An excellent resource...a compassionate and comprehensive guide to providing effective support to people undergoing a difficult transition. --Bruce L. Miller, MD, Director, UC San Francisco Memory and Aging Center  
An outstanding model... The unique concerns of people with early dementia...need to be dealt with sensitively and expertly, and this book gives counselors the tools they need to do just that. --Ginny Helms, Vice President of Chapter Services & Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter  
Engaging and accessible....the best guide I have yet come across to understanding what it is like to experience early-stage dementia and how to respond in a helpful and positive way. Yale's passion and commitment to helping people live well

with dementia shine through on every page, and make reading this book an exciting and deeply inspiring experience. --Linda Clare, PhD, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology, Bangor University, UK

Robyn Yale is a trailblazer who...continues to innovate, motivate and inspire. Read this book, it will transform your understanding and practice in dementia --Professor John Keady, University of Manchester, UK & Co-Editor, *Dementia: The International Journal of Social Research and Practice*

Once again, Robyn Yale has forged new ground. This profound and timely book provides an excellent foundation for understanding the special issues that people with early dementia face, and details a clear, compelling model for individualized intervention. --Suzette Binford, Programs Director, Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter

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Robyn Yale is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 20 years of experience in the fields of Aging and Alzheimer's disease (AD). In 1986, she pioneered an innovative support group for people with early stage AD and their families. She was among the first to fuel the growth in early stage awareness and services through her research and clinical practice, and by facilitating collaboration between professionals around the world in this area. Robyn Yale's early stage support group model has been widely replicated nationally and internationally through her book and training workshops. She has become a leading expert, educator and advocate in the field of early dementia. Based in San Francisco , California , USA , she currently works independently and as a consultant to the Alzheimer's Association and other organizations.

When my friend Robyn Yale talked about writing this book, I was interested not only as a friend supportive of another friend's work, but as someone who had been a long term caregiver to elderly relatives. However, when I started reading her book, I quickly realized that its framework for coping with early-stage AD could be applied to any of life's many transformations, including one's one aging process. Its integration of three major areas of coping--emotional adjustment, practical coping strategies and lifestyle issues--provide a blueprint for turning life's corners with optimal support and

wisdom. The book is beautifully written and clearly organized. I never felt like I was reading a "clinical tome". I highly recommend Counseling People with Early-Stage AD not only to professionals, but to caregivers and anyone interested in navigating life's changes successfully.

Robyn Yale worked with us at the Alzheimer's Association (Georgia Chapter) in developing a counseling program for persons with early stage dementia. We are grateful for her support and expertise in this important area. People diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer's are often emotionally devastated and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn for help and support. Now, Robyn has written a wonderful book for professionals who can help fill this need. The book provides a clear framework for both the professional and the person with early stage dementia, as they face challenges together. The framework is divided into three domains: emotional adjustment, practical coping, and lifestyle issues. The person and the counselor can explore feelings and challenges, set goals, and move forward. Above all, the message of the book is one of hope. The person with early stage dementia still has a life to live. With the kind of help and support Robyn Yale outlines here, the person feels empowered and supported to live his/her best life. Susan Formby, LCSW, Care Consultant, Alzheimer's Association

This book is a must-read for anyone working with families facing early-stage Alzheimer's. Yale provides an excellent overview of issues common to persons with Alzheimer's or a related dementia and organizes these issues into a very practical conceptual counseling framework that can be applied to both short or longer-term counseling and support. She embraces the powerful principles of evolution and resilience that are so overlooked in a population where decline and deficits are often the focus. Most importantly, Yale's framework is grounded in years of working directly with persons with early-stage dementia, so she has effectively developed a model based on that clinical wisdom. Her insight and respect for persons with dementia resonates beautifully throughout the book and results in both a practical and inspiring read.

Robyn Yale's book is clearly written, informative and easily accessible. It offers hope during the early stages of this disease for both patients and families.

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