

Leeside Manor's

Family Conversation Guide: The "In-Between" Approach

How to talk about care without the "Nursing Home" stigma.

1. The Mindset Shift: "Addition, Not Subtraction"

Before you speak to your loved one, reframe the goal. You aren't "putting them somewhere"; you are **adding** a layer of support so they can stay independent longer.

- **The Traditional Move:** Feels like "giving up."
- **The Leeside Manor Move:** Feels like joining a "social club with safety nets."

2. Conversation Openers (The "Soft Entry")

Avoid "We need to talk." Instead, try these observation-based starts:

- **The Social Angle:** "I've noticed you've been spending a lot of time alone lately. I know you miss the energy of [Group/Hobby/Friend]. I found a place that focuses on exactly that kind of connection."
- **The Safety Angle:** "I worry about you being here by yourself when I'm at work. I found a 'middle-ground' option that isn't a hospital or a nursing home—it's more like a supported home environment."
- **The Nutrition Angle:** "I know cooking for one is a chore. I was looking at a local program that provides incredible home-cooked meals and social dining. Would you be open to just seeing what their menu looks like?"

3. Positioning the "In-Between" Model

Use these specific talking points to differentiate your facility from a large-scale institution:

- **"It's a House, Not a Hospital":** Emphasize the residential feel. "It's a smaller, intimate setting. It's not a hallway of 100 rooms; it's a home."
- **"Preserving Independence":** "This isn't about someone doing everything for you; it's about having someone there for the 'hard' stuff so you can enjoy the 'good' stuff."
- **"The Trial Run":** "We don't have to decide on a forever move today. Why don't we just try their day program for a week? It's a great way to meet people and get out of the house."

4. Handling Common "Pushbacks"

If they say...	You say...
"I'm not ready for a nursing home."	"I agree! This isn't a nursing home. It's a boutique care home for people who just need a little extra help with the day-to-day so they can stay active."
"I can take care of myself."	"You've done a great job. This is just about making sure you <i>continue</i> to stay safe. It's a proactive step so we never have to make a choice in an emergency."
"It's too expensive."	"Let's look at the 'In-Between' guide together. There are benefits and options we haven't explored yet that make this very manageable."

5. The "Golden Rule" of the Conversation

Listen more than you talk. If they get defensive, back off. Say, *"I hear you. I just want you to have the best quality of life possible. Let's just keep the guide on the counter and look at it again when you're ready."*

