A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls
Volunteer Lay Leader Model

This award-winning* program is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who have concerns about falls.

This program utilizes volunteer coaches to teach the eight two-hour sessions.

Contact Information

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Awards
2006 Healthcare and Aging Award
American Society on Aging
2006 Innovations and Achievements Award
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

A Matter ofBalance: Managing Concerns About Falls
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Classes help participants learn to:
- View falls and fear of falling as controllable
- Set realistic goals for increasing activity
- Change their environment to reduce fall risk factors
- Promote exercise to increase strength and balance

Designed to benefit community-dwelling older adults who:
- Are concerned about falls
- Have sustained a fall in the past
- Restrict activities because of concerns of falling
- Are interested in improving flexibility, balance and strength
- Are age 60 or older, ambulatory and able to problem-solve

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Here’s what participants say about A Matter of Balance:
“I am already noticing a difference in my physical being. I plan to continue these exercises.”

“I seem to be more aware of every situation for my safety. I now ‘stop, look and listen’ to my surroundings.”

Participation satisfaction:
- 97% are more comfortable talking about fear of falling
- 97% feel comfortable increasing activity
- 99% plan to continue exercising
- 98% would recommend A Matter of Balance

Participation improvement:
- Falls efficacy
- Falls management
- Falls control
- Exercise level
- Monthly falls