Some local retirement homes have found a new way to conduct physical therapy by using Nintendo’s Wii videogame system and baseball bats.

Gail Logan, director of facility services at the Kirkville (Kan.) Manor, said she began looking into buying a new gaming system. Activi- ties Director Tara Logan said she believes therapy is just as important as physical therapy and that the Wii has the potential to break new ground.

The Manor recently received a new Nintendo Wii system. "I think that the Wii is a great way to get residents involved and to return patients to their previous lifestyle," Cline said.

"Technology is advancing every year. I could see the Wii being used in some other type of gaming system being used to provide further coordination training depending on the patient," Logan said.

"One downfall to the gaming system is that it cannot be pushed too far; there’s an end in the land," Wiseman said.

"When we first started (gaming), we weren’t getting very much because I think people were used to throwing it away," Logan said.

"I think (the Wii) is easy because she doesn’t get too rowdy. If she gets too rowdy, she would just walk over and that would render the effort useless," Wiseman said.