

# Treating Infants and Families in the NICU and Beyond

Roberta Gatlin, PT, DSc, PCS



## Faculty

Roberta “Bertie” Gatlin, PT, DSPT. Is currently providing services in the early intervention setting specifically assessing the transition of infants and families from the NICU to EI. She completed her career as an Associate Professor and Director of Admission for South College Department of Physical Therapy in July 2023. She graduated from University of Memphis in 1986 with a BS in Special Education and from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Department of Physical Therapy in 1989 with a BS in Physical Therapy and in 2013 with her Doctor of Science with an emphasis in Neurological and Pediatric Physical Therapy. She has been a Board Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialist from 2001 thru 2021. Her experience draws from over 30 years in the field of pediatric physical therapy. She is an adjunct professor in the Physical Therapy Department at Emory & Henry College, Marion, Virginia. She provides post-professional education for Educational Resources Inc. and Medbridge Education. Bertie provides programming instruction for Brooks Institute of Higher Learning Pediatric Physical Therapy Residency. Bertie’s experience encompasses physical therapy within the NICU, developmental follow-up clinic and outpatient pediatrics, servicing all age levels. She has been a department director for an acute care hospital and an outpatient pediatric rehabilitation center. Her research has focused on the infant with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and the outcome measurements used to identify their developmental needs. Bertie currently holds the Treasure Position for the APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Executive Board and is Past Chair of the Neonatology Specialty Interest Group.

## About this Course

This engaging course is designed to provide participants with tools and strategies to prepare the NICU patient and family for discharge and transition home. Class participants will learn to evaluate, identify, and optimize services and care for NICU graduates as well as to enhance home based and/or outpatient clinical setting skills. Evidence based medical, developmental and outcome data will be discussed to inform treatment, best practices, and management of the medically fragile NICU child.

## Learning Objectives

- Choose rehabilitative interventions to support the premature infant in the NICU
- Determine which evidence-based assessment tool would be most appropriate to evaluate an infant’s motor developmental status
- Identify positioning needs within a therapeutic intervention plan with the post NICU infant and their family/caregiver
- Select handling techniques to promote postural control in static and dynamic positions
- Determine the rationale for the selection of a therapeutic intervention plan of care with a post NICU infant and their family/caregiver
- Evaluate the need for developmental follow-up, family intervention, and positioning and handling programming for NICU graduates
- Apply an evidence-based recommendation for follow-up care of an infant and family/caregiver after discharge from the NICU

## Participant Requirements

Participants should have a doll, two baby blankets and a baby bottle and nipple (any kind).

## Audience

This course is designed for therapists and developmental specialists working with the infant and family in the NICU, PICU, EI and home, up to their first year after discharge.

**Disclosure Financial:** Roberta Gatlin receives a speaking fee from Education Resources, Inc. for this course. **Non-Financial:** Roberta Gatlin is a committee member for the Neonatal Special Interest Group and Finance Committee of APPT.

## Schedule – Day 1 9:40 am - 7:00 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00	Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
10:00-11:30	The NICU Journey
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-1:30	Neurobehavioral System of the Infant Born Premature
1:30-2:00	Lunch
2:00-4:00	Hierarchy of Systems Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How Does the Premature Infant Communicate?</li> <li>• Developing Observational Skills to Recognize an Infant's Signs of Intervention Readiness, Warning and Stress Behaviors</li> </ul>
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-5:00	Patient Family Centered Care Model and Facilitating the Transition to Home
5:00-7:00	Outcome/Expectations and Developmental Needs for Common Diagnoses of the NICU Graduate RDS/HMD, CLD, IVH/PVL, Discordancy, Multiple Births, ROP, Late Preterm, NAS

## Schedule – Day 2 9:40 am - 6:00 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00	Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
10:00-12:30	Typical Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newborn-15 Months</li> <li>• Clinical Assessment</li> <li>• Standardized Tests and Measures</li> </ul>
12:30-12:45	Break
12:45-2:30	Clinical Assessment: Typical/Atypical Developing Infants & Children
2:30-3:00	Lunch
3:00-4:00	Managing the Post NICU Infant and the Medically Fragile NICU Graduate
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-6:00	LAB: Handling and Positioning Strategies

*"Bertie is very passionate about the care of neonates, which clearly comes across in her course. She has wonderful knowledge and experience to share. I highly recommend this course especially to therapists working in the NICU."* - L. Scott, PT

*"I thoroughly enjoyed this presentation as the speaker was not only engaging but very hands on and informative/ relevant to the NICU rehabilitative experience."* - M. Purser, SLP

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## Credits

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## Webinar Dates & Times

**November 7 and 8, 2025**

**9:40 am EST • 8:40 am CST • 7:40 am MST • 6:40 am PST (US)**

Registration is for both sessions. Zoom log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the webinar.



\$389 fee. **LIMITED ENROLLMENT.** Cancellation will be accepted until 14 days prior to the start date of the course, minus an administration fee of \$75. There will be NO REFUNDS after this 14 day deadline. Registration will be accepted after the deadline on a space available basis. We encourage you to register online!

**LIVE WEBINAR - Treating Infants and Families in the NICU and Beyond**  
**Roberta Gatlin, PT, DSc, PCS**

**November 7 and 8, 2025**

**Course Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Needed in the event of an emergency scheduling change

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