

Don't Wait for Gait!

Therapeutic Evaluation and Treatment of Pediatric Gait



Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud, PT, DPT, PCS

Faculty

Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud, PT, DPT, PCS, is a physical therapist with 37 years' experience in the field of pediatric therapy. Liesa is the owner of "Know to Change," an organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge and skills of clinicians in pediatric practice. She has educated healthcare professionals in advanced treatment techniques, performed specialized practical training, and provided consultative services. Liesa has worked in private pediatric clinics, schools, private homes, hospitals, and long-term care facilities, as well as facilities overseas. Dr. Ritchie-Persaud is a Credentialed Clinical Instructor. She received her Associate's Degree in 1993 and worked as a Physical Therapist Assistant while earning her B.S. in Organizational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University in Tulsa, OK. Dr. Ritchie-Persaud earned a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Findlay in Findlay, OH in 2003. She received her post-graduate Doctorate from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in 2011 and is a Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy. Liesa's wide range of clinical experience, organizational leadership, proficient teaching skills, motivation to improve the standard of care and enthusiasm and passion for her field make her an exciting and compelling instructor.

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Financial: Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud has no relevant

About this Live Webinar

With the increased prevalence of developmental delay, it's time to move away from the "wait and see" approach to pre-gait skill performance and gait development for young children. Delays in this area have far-reaching implications for motor development, along with social participation and cognitive development. When clinicians conduct thorough evaluations, consider the orthopedic consequences of delayed gait, and understand the future effects on postural control and ambulation, they can apply evidence-based interventions to mitigate these factors. This course will examine the potential etiologies of delayed gait, assessment of pre-gait skill performance, and how to incorporate neuroplasticity principles into practice. Orthopedic development is presented as it concerns appropriate development of an adequate base of support and assessment of the pediatric lower quarter. Participants will learn collaboratively with each other and the instructor through multiple case studies that solidify learning and offer treatment tools to for immediate application in the therapy space.

Objectives

- Explain the effects of delayed ambulation
- Describe the benefits of proactive & preventive intervention for pediatric gait
- Consider principles of neuroplasticity when considering intervention to increase mobility
- Apply a segmental approach to assessment of the pediatric lower quarter
- Utilize pediatric lower extremity & foot anatomy, & the principles of orthopedic development, as related to the development & performance of pediatric gait
- Implement appropriate treatment strategies for children with gait abnormalities

Audience

This course is designed for Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants and Early Interventionists.

Help your patients achieve better outcomes.

Schedule – Day 1 9:40 am - 3:45 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

10:00-1:15

- Foundational Skills for Movement
- Delayed Ambulation on Sensory Motor Performance, Peer & Social Interaction, Cognitive Function & Activity Participation
- Developmental Delay: Etiology & Consequences

1:15-1:45 LUNCH

1:45-3:45

- The Developmental Process of Gait
- Ages & Developmental Stages
- Pre-Gait Process

Schedule – Day 2 9:40 am - 5:45 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

10:00-1:15

- Interventions Effective in Facilitating & Improving Pediatric Gait:
 - Garment Therapy
 - Orthotics
 - Therapeutic Taping
 - Therapeutic Activities

1:15-1:30 BREAK

Schedule – Day 2 (continued)

1:30-2:30

- Pediatric Lower Extremity Anatomy & Function
- The Consequences of Misalignment & Associated Dysfunction
- Manual Assessment & Relevance of Findings to Gait:
 - Hip rotation
 - Ryder's Test
 - Sacral Angle
 - Thigh-Foot Angle
 - Relaxed Calcaneal Stance
 - Dorsiflexion
 - Inversion, Inversion & Subtalar Neutral
 - Forefoot Adductus

2:30-2:45 BREAK

2:45-5:45 Group Work

To best maximize the learning experience, participants will identify a client (from either current or previous experience) for reference during guided small group discussion. The design of this activity will facilitate application of the developmental principles & assessments learned during the previous two days. Specific questions & resources will be provided on Day 2 to assist in preparation. The intent of the final day is not to cause extra work or stress! Rather, the purpose is to provide exposure to new interventions, & assist participants in planning appropriate problem-oriented interventions. For further assimilation of the presented information, Liesa will present case studies of her own to conclude the day's learning.

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Credits

This course meets the criteria for 12.5 contact hours (1.25 CEUs) Intermediate Level.

Approved provider of the **FL** Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker.

Application has been made to the **FL** Physical Therapy Association. Accreditation of this course does not necessarily imply the FPTA supports the views of the presenter or the sponsors.

Approved by the **MD** Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Application has been made to the **MN** Board of Physical Therapy.

Approved by the **NJ** Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Approved sponsor by the State of **IL** Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for Physical Therapy. Approved provider by the **NY** State Board of Physical Therapy.

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For special needs requests, please contact info@educationresourcesinc.com or 800-487-6530.

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WEBINAR DATES AND TIMES - 2026

January 26 & 28, 2026

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

Registration is for both sessions. 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 a \$75 Administration Fee. There will be NO REFUNDS after this 14-day deadline. Registration will be accepted after deadline on a space available basis. We encourage you to register online!

WEBINAR: Don't Wait For Gait!/Liesa M. Ritchie-Persaud, PT, DPT, PCS

☐ **January 26 & 28, 2026**

Course Registration Form

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Needed in the event of an emergency scheduling change

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Please clearly print your email address for course confirmation

Employer: _____

Discipline: _____ Specialty: _____

How did you learn of this course? _____

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