

# Beyond the Oropharynx: Integrating Esophageal Knowledge into Pediatric Feeding Practice



Amanda Adsett, MSc, R.SLP, S-LP(C)

## Faculty

Amanda is a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist with over 15 years of specialized experience in the assessment and management of complex swallowing disorders. For the past decade, Amanda has been a core member of a multidisciplinary Pediatric Aerodigestive Team, managing the needs of patients with co-occurring airway, digestive, and feeding disorders.

Currently practicing at a major children's hospital, Amanda's clinical background spans intensive care, inpatient acute care, and ambulatory settings, including roles as a Clinic Coordinator and clinician within Otolaryngology and Gastroenterology subspecialty teams. Amanda maintains a high-volume diagnostic practice with expertise in Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies (VFSS) and Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES), and utilizes Pharyngeal High-Resolution Manometry (P-HRM) for challenging cases.

**Disclosures: Financial:** Amanda Adsett receives an honorarium from Education Resources, Inc.

**Non-Financial:** Amanda Adsett has no non-financial disclosures.

## About this Course

Learn how a deeper understanding of the esophagus strengthens clinical recognition, feeding management, and team collaboration. This workshop equips pediatric feeding therapists with foundational knowledge, screening skills, and practical strategies for children with known or suspected esophageal involvement.

Participants will examine the anatomy and physiology of the esophagus and its critical interplay with the oropharyngeal phase. The curriculum addresses the clinical presentation of structural, inflammatory, and motility-based pathologies and their specific impact on feeding function. Through complex case studies and video analysis, the course emphasizes scope of practice—empowering therapists to differentiate esophageal red flags, implement effective compensatory interventions, and facilitate timely medical referrals.

## Learning Objectives

- Determine the clinical limitations of a dichotomized view of swallowing by analyzing the interdependence of the oropharyngeal and esophageal phases
- Relate esophageal anatomy and physiology to the mechanics of bolus transport and sphincter function
- Correlate clinical signs, symptoms, and comorbidities that indicate potential esophageal contributions to a pediatric feeding disorder.
- Integrate esophageal screening considerations into clinical and instrumental swallow evaluations to guide diagnostic decision-making.
- Choose appropriate referral pathways and documentation language that adhere to scope of practice when esophageal pathology is suspected.
- Modify feeding therapy plans to support safe oral intake and facilitate participation in family mealtime routines for children with esophageal dysfunction
- Apply esophageal findings to the clinical decision-making process to coordinate care within a multidisciplinary team.

## Audience

This course is designed for feeding therapist OTs, OTAs, SLPs, SLPAs, lactation consultants and early intervention providers working with children.

Help your patients achieve better outcomes.

## Schedule Day 1 - 9:40 am to 4:30 pm EST (US)

- 9:40-10:00 Live webinar registration
- 10:00-1:00 **Anatomy & Identification**
- Scope of Practice: Why esophageal knowledge is critical for the feeding therapist?
  - Anatomy & Physiology: Esophageal peristalsis, sphincters, and bolus flow
  - Recognizing red flags and common presenting concerns during feeding assessment
- 1:00-1:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30-4:30 **Pathology & Diagnostics**
- Common structural, inflammatory, and motility disorders (e.g., GERD, eosinophilic esophagitis, esophageal atresia/tracheoesophageal fistula, foreign bodies and caustic ingestion)
  - High risk populations, comorbidities, PFD, and the Aerodigestive patient
  - Diagnostic imaging and testing: VFSS esophageal screenings, contrast studies, and other diagnostic tools (e.g., manometry, pH probe, EGD)
  - **VIDEO** review: esophageal clearance, tertiary waves, stasis

## Schedule Day 2 - 9:40 am to 4:30 pm EST (US)

- 9:40-10:00 Live webinar registration
- 10:00-1:00 Differential Diagnosis & Referral
- Case studies: Differentiating oropharyngeal vs. esophageal dysphagia
  - Managing complex, multi-phase swallowing disorders
  - Differentiating physiological red flags from sensory-based aversion, behavioral feeding patterns, and presentations overlapping with ARFID across development (infant to teen). Documentation and referral writing, including sample language to maintain scope of practice
- 1:00-1:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30-4:30 **Therapeutic Intervention & Collaboration**
- Medical, pharmacological, and surgical interventions
  - Implementing evidence-informed and responsive feeding strategies (e.g. texture and bolus modification, positioning, compensatory maneuvers) and their potential impact on other phases of swallowing
  - Why feeding therapy fails and how to fix it
  - Collaboration in Action: Case analysis, video review, and the feeding therapist's role within Aerodigestive and multidisciplinary teams.

## ERI: Life-changing learning

You love what you do. Our courses remind you why. As a therapist, you change lives every day – and have your life changed in return. ERI is life-changing learning, for therapists by therapists.

### The ERI Advantage

- Techniques you'll use the next day
- Peers who share your passion
- Renowned faculty
- Evidence-based courses that improve outcomes
- 30 years of life-changing learning

### Specialty Tracks

Learn with courses throughout the lifespan – neonatal, pediatric, adult and geriatric. Each ERI specialty track is designed to make the most of your continuing education time, budget, and goals. Start your search with us and plan every course you'll take in 2026.

### ERI Rewards\*

Your ERI experience is more rewarding than ever:

- First course discount
- Bring a friend savings
- Group discounts
- \$100 off your 4th multi-day course

\*Subject to availability. Exclusions may apply. Visit our website for details and coupon codes.

Visit [educationresourcesinc.com](https://educationresourcesinc.com) for all your 2026 course needs.

## Credits

Coming soon.

## Webinar Dates and Times

November 19 and 20, 2026

9:40 am EST • 8:40 am CT • 7:40 am MST • 6:40 am PT (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 first date of 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!

### **Beyond the Oropharynx: Integrating Esophageal Knowledge into Pediatric Feeding Practice Amanda Adsett**

**November 19 and 20, 2026**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Needed in the event of an emergency scheduling change

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clearly print your email address for course confirmation

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline: \_\_\_\_\_ Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn of this course? \_\_\_\_\_

Education Resources reserves the right to cancel any course due to insufficient registration or extenuating circumstances.

I have read your refund policy above and understand.

Cardholder's name & billing address with zip code if different from above:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Amount charged \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize you to charge my:  VISA  MC  DISCOVER# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV2 Code \_\_\_\_\_