

Move to See, See to Move: Linking Primitive Reflex Integration and Functional Vision

Amber Fessler, OTD, MS, OTR/L

Faculty

Amber Fessler, OTD, MS, OTR/L, is a highly experienced pediatric occupational therapist with two decades of expertise working with diverse pediatric populations. She is a contributing author to Dr. Scheiman's *Understanding and Managing Vision Deficits: A Guide for Occupational Therapists* (4th Edition) and has published research on occupational therapy and optometry collaboration in pediatric care in the *Vision Development and Rehabilitation Journal*.

She earned her post-professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Salus University in 2020, specializing in Remedial Vision Rehabilitation. Currently, she owns and operates a private practice dedicated to helping children with learning-related vision deficits, working closely with optometrists to provide comprehensive care. Amber's extensive clinical background spans early intervention, public schools, outpatient care, and vision therapy clinics.

Financial Disclosure: Amber Fessler has no relevant financial relationships to disclose. She does receive an honorarium from Education Resources, Inc.

Non-Financial Disclosure: Amber Fessler has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

About this Live Webinar

As pediatric therapists, we know that strong foundations matter. Primitive and postural reflexes are the building blocks that support the development of coordination, balance, motor control, and, importantly, learned visual skills. These learned visual skills, in turn, drive how children move, learn, and interact with their world.

This interactive and comprehensive course explores the powerful connection between primitive and postural reflexes and the development of efficient motor and functional vision skills. It is ideal for therapists who want to build skills from the ground up, reignite progress when development stalls, and discover fresh, evidence-based strategies to accelerate outcomes for children with sensory-motor deficits, dyspraxia, developmental coordination disorder, and other neurodevelopmental challenges. Through the presentation of evidence-based research, real-world case studies, and guided practice, participants will learn to:

- Functionally assess primitive and postural reflexes to identify neuromotor maturity.
- Screen for visual efficiency deficits
- Create effective, individualized treatment plans that support reflex integration and vision-based movement.

Best of all, this course is designed to energize your clinical toolbox with cost-effective, functional, and occupation-based intervention strategies that can be immediately applied in your treatment sessions, helping children to become more intentional, confident, and successful participants in their daily activities.

Objectives

1. Recognize how Skeffington's Model of Vision illustrates the development of motor coordination and vision skills and can be used to guide our interventions.
2. Identify indicators of primitive and postural reflex development impacting a child's motor development and functional participation in common daily activities.
3. Correlate primitive and postural reflexes to the development of vision efficiency and visual information processing skills.
4. Assess neuromotor maturity using clinical measures of primitive and postural reflex integration to inform intervention strategies.
5. Choose functional interventions that integrate reflex maturity and visual skill development to improve performance and participation in daily activities.

Help your patients achieve better outcomes.

Schedule – Day 1 9:40 am - 6:00 pm EST (US)

- 9:40–10:00** Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 10:00–11:15** Seven primitive/postural reflexes and their importance
- 11:15–12:00** Two Models of Vision
- 12:00–12:15** BREAK
- 12:15–1:30** Vision and Reflexes: developmental milestones from Birth through age 7
- 1:30–2:00** Vision and Reflexes: an assessment tool for each
- 2:00–2:30** **LUNCH**
- 2:30–4:00** Assessing primitive reflex patterns: When and how to check for integration of Moro, TLR, Spinal Galant, ATNR, Babinski, STNR
- 4:00–4:15** **BREAK**
- 4:15–5:15** Assessing postural reflex patterns: When and how to check for integration of oculo and head righting
- 5:15–6:00** Screening visual efficiency skills

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

- 9:40–10:00** Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 10:00–10:30** Four general intervention principles to guide reflex integration & remediation
- 10:30–12:00** Treatment Activities: Incorporating reflex patterns into sensori-motor and functional vision skill development
- 12:00–12:15** **BREAK**
- 12:15–2:00** Treatment Activities: Incorporating reflex patterns into sensori-motor and functional vision skill development
- 2:00–2:30** **LUNCH**
- 2:30–4:00** Treatment activities: Incorporating reflex patterns into sensori-motor and functional vision skill development
- 4:00–4:15** **BREAK**
- 4:15–5:30** Case studies: Supporting decision making on when to assess/intervene and understanding the intervention process.
- 5:30–6:00** Putting it all together to connect to your pediatric practice

Webinar Dates and Times

May 8 and 9, 2026

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

Registration is for all 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.

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