Feeding Challenges:

Sensory vs. Structural vs. Experience

Danielle Carey, MS, CCC-SLP, COM

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Faculty

Danielle is a board-certified speech-language pathologist (ASHA) and a board-certified orofacial myologist through the International Association of Orofacial Myology. She specializes in myofunctional therapy, pediatric feeding including infant feeding, tethered oral tissues (TOTs Specialty Training), and childhood apraxia of speech. She is certified as a DIR/floortime provider and certified in Sequential Oral Sensory (SOS) approach to feeding. A proud member of ASHA, ICAP, and the IAOM.

Danielle is also a dedicated clinical instructor for several continuing education companies helping other clinicians advance their knowledge surrounding tongue ties, pediatric feeding, apraxia, and neurodiverse affirming care.

Disclosure: Danielle Carey receives a salary from NC Tongue Tie Center as a treating SLP/COM® and receives compensation as a Clinical Instructor for several continuing education companies. Danielle Carey also receives an honorarium from Education Resources Inc.

Non-Financial Disclosure: Danielle participates in research surrounding myofunctional disorders impact on speech and feeding. (Not sure if this is needed? I have 1 paper published early this year and I am currently working with 6 different teams on other projects surrounding tongue ties and infants, collaborative care in tongue tie management, a systematic review on OMT and feeding and a project on OMT/Air-

About This Course

Feeding challenges in childhood through adulthood can arise from sensory differences, structural differences, a lack of experience with advanced textures, or all the above. Enhance your feeding knowledge with this holistic approach that acknowledges the role of structural differences, retained reflexes, sensory differences, muscle weakness, and abnormal breathing/rest posture/swallow patterns on mealtime participation and eating. Determine how to functionally assess for tongue ties and determine when releases are warranted. Learn and embrace a neurodiversity affirming approach that accounts for individual differences including emotional support and counseling techniques that contribute to positive outcomes for clients and families struggling with feeding.

Objectives

- Identify root cause(s) of pediatric feeding difficulty in infants through adolescents
- Differentiate between sensory-based, structurally based and experience-based feeding difficulties from case history review through assessment to prioritize intervention strategies
- Recognize the impact of neurodiverse affirming care to foster a positive relationship based on trust and felt safety
- Determine when and how to best advocate for clients with functional impairments caused by structural differences
- Apply counseling strategies and active-listening techniques to facilitate caregiver collaboration for supporting children with feeding difficulties
- Choose a plan of care to achieve optimal progress with safe and enjoyable feeding based on a client's case history and individual differences
- Utilize play-based treatment to build sensory-based, structural-based, and/or experienced-based feeding skills

Audience

This course is recommended for OTs, PTs and SLPs practicing in the feeding and swallowing population.

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Schedule – Day 1 8:40 am to 6:00 pm EST (US)

8:40-9:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

9:00-10:30 Foundational Skills

- Typical Teeth Eruption Patterns
- Breastfeeding & Pediatric Feeding Norms
- Influence of Primitive reflexes on Feeding
- Case history analysis for signs and symptoms
- Key Questions for Parent Interviews

10:30-1:30 Structural Knowledge

- Tongue-Tie Grading
- Functional Tongue – Tie Assessment
- Frenectomy VIDEO (infant, child, adolescent)
- Postural Differences in relation to TOTS
- Active Wound Care Management
- Physical and Emotional Preparation for Frenectomy
- Dental Alignment, Enlarged Tonsils, High/narrow Palate and Compromised Airway

1:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-4:30 Sensory Knowledge

- Influence of each sense on feeding and swallowing skills: Tactile, Visual, Gustatory, Auditory, Olfactory, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Interoceptive

4:30-6:00 Experienced-Based Knowledge

- Signs of Readiness
- Preparing a child for introduction of solids, Hard Munchables
- Maintaining Nutrition/Hydration while weaning from bottle
- Baby-Led Weaning: Important considerations
- How to progress a child safely
- Food Selection, Engagement Tips, Counseling Support and helpful handouts

Schedule – Day 2 8:40 am to 4:00 pm EST (US)

8:40-9:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens

9:00-12:30 Assessment of Multifaceted Feeding Skills

- Infant Assessment
- Structural & Sensory Assessments
- Interview Questions for Experience Considerations
- We have the data, now what? Interpreting Data from your Assessment. Case Studies (infant, structural, multifaceted)
- Developing a Plan of Care: Working with the Child & Caregiver on developing the most appropriate treatment plan for each individual child.

12:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00-4:00 Treatment: Evidence-Based Intervention Strategies

- Infant Treatment
- Determine priority of deficits – Case Studies
- Treatment for structural differences
- Treatment for sensory-based deficits
- Treatment for experienced-based deficits

Webinar Dates and Times

August 21 and 28, 2026

8:40 am EST • 7:40 am CST • 6:40 am MST• 5:40 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 first date of the Webinar.

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This course meets the criteria for 15 contact hours (1.5 CEUs) Intermediate Level.
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12 hours of this course qualify towards the discipline-specific hours for the 20-hour requirement for NDTA re-certification. They do NOT qualify towards the 8-hour NDTA Instructor requirement for re-certification.
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$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.
We encourage you to register online!

Webinar: Feeding Challenges: Sensory vs. Structural vs. Experience
Presenter: Danielle Carey, SLP
❑ August 21 and 28, 2026

Course Registration Form

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