Treatment Strategies for the Improvement of Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing, and Respiratory Coordination Function: The Child with Neuromuscular Involvement

Rona Alexander, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, C/NDT

life-changing learning for therapists by therapists

Faculty

Rona Alexander, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, C/NDT is a speech-language pathologist specializing in the assessment and treatment of oral, pharyngeal, feeding/swallowing, and respiratory coordination function in infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with primary neuromotor, musculoskeletal, and sensory systems impairments. She maintains a private practice; provides consultation services; provides short-term treatment intensives; and conducts workshops/courses/seminars/webinars on oral movement, oral sensory, pharyngeal, feeding/swallowing, and thoracic cage/respiratory coordination development, assessment, and treatment. Dr. Alexander is an active advanced speech instructor in Neuro-Developmental Treatment (NDT). She has contributed chapters on oral, pharyngeal, feeding/swallowing, and rib cage/respiratory coordination function to numerous publications; is co-author of the book entitled, *Normal Development of Functional Motor Skills: The First Year of Life;* is author of the CEU product, *Focus on the Rib Cage for Improvement of Respiration, Phonation, Movement, and Postural Control*; and is co-developer of the CEU product, The ABCs of Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing.

Financial: Rona Alexander receives an honorarium from Education Resources, Inc., as well as royalty payments from Clinician's View and a co-author of the book published by The Hammill Institute on Disabilities.
Non-Financial: She is a member of the NDTA and the NDTA Instructors Group.

About this Course

This course delivers clinically relevant assessment and intervention strategies for infants and children with neuromuscular impairments and challenges to their oral, pharyngeal, feeding/swallowing and respiratory function. Special emphasis is on postural alignment and control as well as on sensory factors that can influence a child's feeding and swallowing. Effective intervention strategies to improve cheeks/lips, tongue, jaw, pharyngeal and rib cage/diaphragm function will be highlighted. Participants will engage in extensive clinical problem-solving via group case analysis and patient demonstration sessions.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the essential components of a comprehensive clinical assessment of oral, pharyngeal, feeding/swallowing and respiratory coordination function in infants and young children.
- Determine what needs to be examined and evaluated in each component of a comprehensive clinical assessment.
- Identify the essential parts of comprehensive intervention programming for young children with neuromuscular involvement.
- Modify body alignment/positioning for effective intervention programming for oral, pharyngeal, and respiratory function.
- Apply treatment strategies to improve the function of the cheeks/lips, tongue, and jaw in children with neuromuscular involvement in preparation for improved feeding.

Audience

Professionals who have a foundation of knowledge in the components of typical and atypical oral, pharyngeal, feeding/swallowing, respiratory, and general movement development. Participants should have practical experience in providing assessment and intervention services for infants and children with neuromuscular involvement who exhibit problems in oral motor, oral sensory, pharyngeal, feeding, swallowing, phonatory, and respiratory coordination function.

EDUCATION RESOURCES INC

life-changing learning for therapists by therapists

Schedule – Day 1 9:10 am - 5:00 pm EST (US)

9:10-9:30	**Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens**
9:30-9:45	Discussion of Workshop Plan
9:45 – 10:30	The ICF Model and Its Relationship to Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing
10:30-11:30	Primary Influences on a Child's Feeding and Swallowing Function • Oral Impairments • Pharyngeal Impairments • Gastrointestinal Impairments • Respiratory/Airway Impairments • Behavioral Management Issues
11:30-11:45	**Break**
11:45-1:30	Primary Influences on Feeding and Swallowing Function (cont.)
1:30-2:00	**Lunch**
2:00-3:30	Primary Influences on Feeding and Swallowing Function (cont.) Comprehensive Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing, and Respiratory Coordination Clinical Assessment
3:30-3:45	**Break**
3:45-5:00	Comprehensive Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing and Respiratory Coordination Clinical Assessment and Intervention Program Development

Schedule – Day 2 9:10 am - 5:00 pm EST (US)

9:10-9:30	**Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens**
9:30-11:30	Intervention Strategies: The Influences of Body Movements and Postural Alignment on Oral, Pharyngeal, and Rib Cage/Respiratory Function • Therapeutic Handling in Direct Treatment • Body Alignment and Positioning for Improved Oral Function
11:30-11:45	**Break**
11:45-1:30	Strategies to Prepare the Oral Mechanism for Function
1:30-2:00	**Lunch**
2:00-3:30	Mealtime Feeding Strategies and Direct Treatment Strategies: Sensory Influences, Utensils, Presentation, Timing, and Modifying Oral and Pharyngeal Function
3:30-3:45	**Break**
3:45-5:00	Mealtime Feeding Strategies and Direct Treatment Strategies (cont.) Wrap-Up

"The best course I've been to. Any pediatric SLP should take this course."

— Melissa E, SLP

Register at educationresourcesinc.com

EDUCATION RESOURCES INC

life-changing learning for therapists by therapists

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 2027.

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 for all your 2027 course needs.

Credits

This course meets the criteria for 13 contact hours (1.3 CEUs) Intermediate Level.
To receive a certificate of completion all registered attendees are required to attend and participate fully in all applicable course activities (i.e., labs, discussions, group work, polls, post-tests with passing grade of 80% or greater etc.) and complete the evaluation form.

AOTA American Occupational Therapy Association Approved Provider

Education Resources Inc. is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID# 11770. This Distance Learning Interactive course is offered at 13 contact hours, 1.3 CEUs, (Intermediate, OT service delivery, Foundational Knowledge). AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.

This course can be used toward your NBCOT renewal requirements.
Approved provider of the **FL** Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker.
This course meets the approval of the **TX** Board of OT Examiners.

ASHA CE APPROVED PROVIDER

Education Resources, Inc.
Intermediate level
1.3 ASHA CEUs

ASHA CE Provider (Intermediate level) 1.3 ASHA CEUs. ASHA CE Provider approval and use of the Brand Block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures. SLPs that require ASHA must submit your ASHA participant form to ERI.
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.
Approved by 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.
Education Resources, Inc. is an approved provider for Physical Therapy CEUs in the following states: **CA, NM, OK, and TX**; the assignment does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures for these.
The following state boards of physical therapy accept other states' approval: **AK, AR, AZ, DC, DE, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, KY, MA, MI, MO, MS, NC, OR, PA, RI, SC, UT, VA, VT, WI, WY**. The following state boards of physical therapy either do not require course pre-approval or do not require CEUs for re-licensure: **AL, CO, CT, IA, ME, MT, NE, ND, NH, SD, WA.**
Please contact us with any special needs requests: info@educationresourcesinc.com | 800-487-6530. Education Resources Inc. 266 Main St, Suite 12, Medfield, MA 02052 • 800-487-6530.

Webinar Dates and Times

April 15 and 16, 2027
9:10 am EST • 8:10 am CST • 7:10 am MST• 6:10 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.

Register at educationresourcesinc.com

EDUCATION RESOURCES INC

life-changing learning for therapists by therapists

$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!

Treatment Strategies for the Improvement of Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing, and Respiratory Coordination Function - Rona Alexander

❑ April 15 and 16, 2027

Course Registration Form

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. Please do not make non-refundable travel arrangements until you have called us and received confirmation that the course will be held. We are not responsible for any expenses incurred by participants if the course must be cancelled.

❑ 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_____

Register at educationresourcesinc.com