

# Treatment Strategies for the Improvement of Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing, and Respiratory Coordination Function:

Children with Neuromuscular Involvement  
Rona Alexander, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, C/NDT

## Faculty

Rona Alexander, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, C/NDT - A longtime member of the Education Resources faculty and an accomplished author, Rona Alexander is a speech-language pathologist specializing in the assessment and treatment of oral motor, feeding/ swallowing, and respiratory-phonatory function in infants and children with neuromuscular involvement. Dr. Alexander is a qualified speech instructor in Neurodevelopmental Treatment, delivering expert clinical knowledge and a personable instructive style through her basic pediatric and advanced NDT courses. She is a co-author of the book, *Normal Development of Functional Motor Skills: The First Year of Life*, and codeveloper of *The ABCs of Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing*. She also has served as a member of the ASHA Steering Committee for Special Interest Division 13: Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. Dr. Alexander maintains a private practice, provides consultation services and conducts workshops on oral motor, feeding/swallowing, and respiratory coordination development, assessment and treatment.

*Financial: Rona Alexander receives a speaking fee from Education Resources 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 Instructor Group.*

## About this Course

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

## Objectives

Participants will be able to apply course learning immediately to:

- 1 Clinically assess oral motor, feeding/swallowing and respiratory coordination function in infants and young children
- 2 Detail the essential components of comprehensive intervention programming for young children with neuromuscular involvement
- 3 Implement effective body alignment, positioning for the modification of oral, pharyngeal, and respiratory function in intervention programming
- 4 Perform treatment strategies to improve the function of the cheeks/lips, tongue, and jaw in children with neuromuscular involvement

## 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 treatment services for infants and children with neuromuscular involvement who exhibit problems in oral motor, oral sensory, pharyngeal, feeding, swallowing, phonatory, and respiratory coordination function.

## Schedule – Day 1

9:30-9:45	Introduction/Discussion of Workshop Plan
9:45-11:30	Primary Areas Influencing a Child's Feeding and Swallowing Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral Issues</li> <li>• Pharyngeal Issues</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal Issues</li> <li>• Respiratory/Airway Issues</li> <li>• Behavioral Management Issues</li> </ul>
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-1:30	Primary Areas Influencing Function (cont.)
1:30-2:00	Lunch
2:00-3:30	Comprehensive Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing, and Respiratory Coordination Assessment and Intervention Program Development
3:30-3:45	Break
3:45-5:00	Treatment Strategies: The Influences of Body Movements and Postural Alignment on Oral, Pharyngeal, and Rib Cage/Respiratory Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therapeutic Handling in Direct Treatment</li> <li>• Body Alignment and Positioning for Improved Oral Function</li> </ul>

## Schedule – Day 2

9:30-11:30	Treatment Strategies: The Influences of Body Movements... (cont.)
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-1:30	Preparation of the Oral Mechanism for Function
1:30-2:00	Lunch
2:00-3:30	Mealtime Feeding Strategies and Treatment Strategies: Sensory Influences, Utensils, Presentation, Timing, and Modifying Oral and Pharyngeal Function
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-5:00	Mealtime Feeding Strategies and Treatment Strategies (cont.) Wrap-Up

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— Melissa E, SLP

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## Credits

This course meets the criteria for 13 contact hours (1.3) CEUs, Intermediate Level. Most Physical Therapy State Boards accept webinars as a live offering. Please check with your state board to confirm.

Application has been made to the **MD, NJ, NM** and **OK** Boards of PT. This course has been approved by the **KY** and **NV** State Board of PT. Approved sponsor by the State of IL Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for PT for 15.5 contact hours. Approved provider by the **NY** State Board of PT for 15.6 contact hours (1.56 CEUs). Education Resources, Inc. is an approved provider for PT CEUs in the following states: **CA, KY, and TX**. The following state boards of PT accept other states' approval: **AK, AR, AZ, DC, DE, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, MI, MO, MS, NC, OR, PA, RI, SC, UT, VA, VT, WI, WY**. The following state boards of PT either do not require course pre-approval or do not require CEUs for re- licensure: **AL, CO, CT, IA, MA, ME, MT, NE, ND, NH, SD, WA**



Approved provider of continuing education by the American Occupational Therapy Association #3043, for 13 contact hours - Intermediate Level Occupational Therapy Process: assessment, intervention. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA.

Approved provider of the **FL** Board of Occupational Therapy-CE Broker 15.5 hours.

This course meets the approval of the **TX** Board of OT Examiners.



Education Resources, Inc is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for up to 1.3 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area). This program has been submitted for approval of 13 clock hours of continuing education credit by the **TX** Speech Language-Hearing-Association (TSHA). TSHA approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures  
NBCOT professional development provider – 13 PDUs

13 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. Dietitians will receive 13 hours.

Please contact us with any special needs requests: [info@educationresourcesinc.com](mailto:info@educationresourcesinc.com) or 508-359-6533

## Webinar Dates and Times 2020

December 11-12 2020

9:10 am EST • 8:10 am CST • 7:10 am MST • 6:10 am PST (US)

Registration is for both sessions. Instructions and Course Materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 2-3 days prior to the first date of the Webinar



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**Treatment Strategies for the Improvement of Oral, Pharyngeal, Feeding/Swallowing, and Respiratory  
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**Course Registration Form**

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