# **SOFFI™**:

# **Supporting Oral Feeding** in Fragile Infants

Erin Sundseth Ross, PhD, CCC-SLP

Faculty Erin Ross, PhD, CC-SLP is the creator of SOFFI <sup>™</sup>, recommended by the National Association of Neonatal Nurses to be used in conjunction with their feeding guidelines. For more than 25 years she has specialized in the development of feeding skills in medically fragile children. Her research focuses on the etiology and treatment of feeding and growth problems in infants and children. Dr. Ross holds a master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology and received a doctoral degree in Clinical Sciences - Health Services Research from the University of Colorado. Dr. Ross is a Clinical Instructor in the School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, at the University of Colorado, a faculty member of Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions and works in the NICU within several HealthONE hospitals in Denver. She is also the President of Feeding FUNdamentals, LLC.

Disclosure: Financial: Erin Ross receives a honorarium from ERI, is a paid consultant for Nestle (Gerber division) and Intertek, and is a paid speaker for Toomey & Associates, Inc. and employed by Feeding Fundamentals, LLC. Non-Financial: She is a volunteer chair on the Advocacy Committee for Feeding Matters and Intellectual Property Owner, SOFFI<sup>™</sup>. This presentation will focus exclusively on the SOFFI Approach to feeding and will not include information on other similar or related therapy.

# **About this Course**

This course provides immediately applicable practical information to help clinicians better identify and treat the factors that impact successful oral feeding of preterm and ill term infants. Utilizing a multidisciplinary approach— both in the NICU and after discharge to early intervention through the first six months the course emphasizes strategies to facilitate infant abilities and develop caregiver feeding skills. Breastfeeding is emphasized as the best feeding method for infants, with some strategies to support breastfeeding. However, most of the feeding strategies are for bottle feedings, since more infant feeding problems occur with bottle feedings. The objective is to identify feeding readiness and provide intervention strategies from a framework of normal development. A holistic research-based approach integrating the medical fragility of these infants is emphasized, using the BROSS approach and SOFFI<sup>™</sup>.

# **Objectives**

- Identify necessary components of infant development that indicate a readiness to begin and sustain oral feeding, including physiologic, motor and state organization
- 0 Discuss the development of oral-motor skills in preterm infants
- 0 Describe the interaction between medical and developmental levels as they relate to feeding readiness and the progression
- 0 Identify infants who are not following a normal progression
- 0 Use the BROSS approach to identify the development of oral feeding skills and use SOFFI<sup>™</sup> to guide feeding decisions and intervention strategies
- Ø Use principles of normal development and developmentally supportive care to facilitate feeding progression, to include contributions of both the family and the professional team
- 0 Identify the impact of various medical conditions on oral feeding success

### Audience

Designed for SLPs, PTs, PTAs, OTs, OTAs. This workshop is designed for individuals with several years experience working with family and staff to support oral feeding for infants in, or just discharged from the intensive care nursery, including speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and early interventionists. Level of instruction: Intermediate to Advanced.

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# Schedule – Day 1

| 7:30-8:00              | Registration/Continental Breakfast                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 8:00-9:00              | Introduction, Welcome & Family Roles<br>and Expectations for Successful<br>Nurturing and Feeding                                                                                                                         |  |  |
| 9:00-10:00             | Feeding as a Developmental<br>Process–Physiologic, Sensory and<br>State Development                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| 10:00-10:15            | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |  |
| 10:15-12:00            | Feeding as a Developmental<br>Process – Oral-Motor Development                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |
| 12:00-1:00             | Lunch (on your own)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |
| 1:00-3:00              | Medical Issues that Impact Feeding Skills:<br>chronic lung disease, cardiac defects,<br>oral-Motor deficits, gastrointestinal<br>disorders                                                                               |  |  |
| 1:00-3:00<br>3:00-3:15 | chronic lung disease, cardiac defects,<br>oral-Motor deficits, gastrointestinal                                                                                                                                          |  |  |
|                        | chronic lung disease, cardiac defects,<br>oral-Motor deficits, gastrointestinal<br>disorders                                                                                                                             |  |  |
| 3:00-3:15              | chronic lung disease, cardiac defects,<br>oral-Motor deficits, gastrointestinal<br>disorders<br>Break<br>Effects of the NICU Experience:<br>Changing the focus from volume to<br>skill to build a foundation for optimal |  |  |

# Schedule – Day 2

| 7:30-8:00   | Continental Breakfast                                                                                                  |  |  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 8:00-10:15  | Using SOFFI <sup>™</sup> to Guide Decisions<br>Regarding Readiness and Interventions for<br>Infants Not Nipple Feeding |  |  |
| 10:15-10:30 | Break                                                                                                                  |  |  |
| 10:30-11:45 | Using SOFFI <sup>™</sup> to Provide Supportive<br>Interventions for Nipple<br>Feeding (1)                              |  |  |
| 11:45-12:45 | Lunch (on your own)                                                                                                    |  |  |
| 12:45-2:30  | Using SOFFI <sup>™</sup> to Provide Supportive<br>Interventions for Nipple<br>Feeding (2)                              |  |  |
| 2:30-2:45   | Break                                                                                                                  |  |  |
| 2:45-4:00   | Using SOFFI™ to Provide<br>Supportive Interventions for Nipple<br>Feeding (3)                                          |  |  |

# **Testimonials**

"This was one of the best courses I have ever attended. Erin's presentation was excellent and I appreciated the evidence-based focus with relevant clinical application. I would highly recommend this course to anyone interested in feeding." – K. Richardson



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Application has been made to the **FL** Physical Therapy Association for 17 continuing education contact hours.

Approved provider by the **NY** State Board of PT for 17.4 contact hours.



Approved provider of continuing education by the American Occupational Therapy Association #3043, for 14.5 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 by the **TX** Board of OT Examiners.

This program has been submitted for approval of 14.5 clock hours of continuing education credit by the TX Speech Language-Hearing-Association (TSHA). TSHA approval does imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures

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



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 1.45 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate Level, Professional area)

This course meets the criteria for 14.5 hours towards NANT Certification NBCOT professional development provider – 14.5 PDUs Please contact us with any special needs requests: info@educationresourcesinc.com or 508-359-6533

# Locations and Dates 2020

| Jan 31-Feb 1   | Houston, TX     | Texas Children's Hospital          |  |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| April 24-25    | TBD             | TBD                                |  |
| Aug 6-7        | Winter Park, FL | Florida Hospital Pediatric         |  |
| Rehabilitation |                 |                                    |  |
| Nov 13-14      | Washington, DC  | MedStar Washington Hospital Center |  |
| Dec 4-5        | TBD             | TBD                                |  |

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Registration will be accepted after deadline on a space available basis. Cancellation accepted up until 2 weeks before course, minus an administration fee of \$75. NO REFUNDS WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF COURSE.
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Limited enrollment. We encourage you to register online!

### SOFFI <sup>™</sup>/Sundseth Ross

### Sept/LA April/TBD Aug/FL Nov/DC Dec/CA

### **Course Registration Form**

| Name:                     |                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Address:                  |                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
| City:                     |                                                                                                                                      | State:                            | Zip Code: |
| Home Phone:               |                                                                                                                                      | Work Phone:                       |           |
| Cell Phone:               |                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
|                           | n emergency scheduling change                                                                                                        |                                   |           |
| Email:                    |                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
| Please clearly print your | email address for course confirmation                                                                                                |                                   |           |
| Employer:                 |                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
| Discipline:               |                                                                                                                                      | Specialty:                        |           |
| How did you learn o       | f this course                                                                                                                        |                                   |           |
| make non-refundable t     | eserves the right to cancel any course du<br>travel arrangements until you have called<br>penses incurred by participants if the cou | us and received confirmation that |           |
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| Amount charged            |                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
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