Course Description

Feeding difficulties in the NICU are common and can be challenging for even experienced therapists. Premature infants and medically fragile/sick newborns are unique from typically developing healthy newborns. An appreciation of their fragile and immature sub systems, maturation of these subsystems around feeding and swallowing, as well as our ability to impact these systems, are required to be a successful clinician serving this population. This two day seminar will provide a strong foundation in evidence based information, theory and critical analysis of: sub system analysis, swallowing safety and function, appropriate and effective therapeutic interventions, family/caregiver engagement and discharge planning. Infant’s communication skills, positioning impact on feeding and swallowing, pre-feeding skills, therapeutic feeding trials, bottle and breast feeding, family involvement, and feeding in palliative care will also be discussed. Along with interactive lectures; videos, pictures, case studies, demonstrations and labs will be used to further expand learning opportunities and empower participants as feeding therapists with this fragile population in the NICU and beyond.

Objectives

At the end of this course participants will be able to:

1. Describe embryologic development and maturation and impact of prematurity on feeding and swallowing skills
2. Explain environmental, physiologic, sensory motor and psychosocial influences in this specialized population that affect feeding and swallowing
3. Identify readiness signs to begin pre-feeding and oral feeding opportunities
4. Indicate appropriate clinical analysis for thorough evaluation of feeding and swallowing skills
5. Detail at least 3 feeding treatments to enhance feeding and swallowing skills
6. Determine appropriate involvement of feeding therapy in palliative care
7. State common feeding difficulties that can arise with NICU graduates following transition home
8. Detail 3 appropriate techniques and plan to facilitate a successful transition home
9. Establish thorough discharge recommendations and follow up needed

Instructor:

Kathy Ramirez, OT/L

Kathy has been a practicing Occupational Therapist in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for over 20 years. She is a clinical specialist at CHOC Children’s Hospital in Orange, CA who provides direct patient care coverage in this Level 4 NICU. Kathy has a strong passion for Developmental Care, Feeding and Swallowing and Family Centered Care. She also works on many quality improvement projects, including skin to skin care, breast feeding, ECMO and Cardiac Teams as well as in the Neuro NICU. She has worked to help develop infrastructure, guidelines and quality improvement of a specialized unit for the ELBWs. She is passionate about empowering family members in the care of their babies to facilitate successful transition home and optimize outcomes. She is equally passionate about educating and training others in their professional growth and development. She finds joy in helping others succeed.

Karin Mitchell, MA, CCC-SLP

Karin has been a practicing Speech Pathologist who has been working in the Level 4 NICU at CHOC Children’s Hospital in Orange, CA for over 19 years. Karin is extremely focused on quality improvement initiatives in the NICU and works closely in VON and NICQ collaborative groups as well as in-house councils and committees. Karin serves as a clinical specialist and is committed to empowering others through mentoring and education. She is active in development of guidelines, policies and procedures as well as ongoing analysis of programs, always looking to enhance the care provided. She is passionate about feeding and swallowing, breast feeding, developmental care and partnering with families. She has helped to develop the infrastructure of the Small Baby Unit, a unit specifically developed to care for the ELBWs, the Neuro NICU, as well as part of the Infant Driven Feeding Champion group, Skin to Skin, Breast Feeding and Palliative Care teams. Her love of teaching and helping others drives her to create and deliver fun and empowering continuing education courses.

Financial Disclosure: Karin Mitchell and Kathy Ramirez receive an honorarium from CIAO for the presentation of this course.

Non-financial Disclosure: There are no financial relationships to disclose.

Participants should bring a baby doll with soft movable extremities OR a "NDT doll"

Participants should bring one receiving blanket and a bottle
This course is offered for 1.5 ASHA CEUs (Introductory level, Professional area).

CIAO has been approved as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 1760 Old Meadow Road, Suite 500 McLean, VA 22102. In obtaining this approval, CIAO has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standards which are widely recognized as standards of good practice internationally. As a result of their Authorized Provider membership status, CIAO is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standards.

Approved for:
15.0 Hrs. PT/PTAs in IL, NY, TX (15 CCUs)

CEUs: 1.5 (15 Contact Hours)
CIAO is an ASHA approved provider #AAWA (SLP/SLPA)
CIAO is an AOTA approved provider #4119 (OT/COTA)
This course meets PDU requirements for NBCOT
CIAO is authorized by IACET to offer 1.5 CEUs for this program
CIAO is an Illinois Approved Provider for PT/PTA Continuing Education
CIAO is recognized as an Approved Provider for PT/PTAs by the NYSE Dept State Board for PT
This activity is provided by the TBPTE Accredited Prov. #1602009
This activity meets the continuing competence requirements for PT/PTA license renewal in TX

Agenda
Day 1
Day 1
7:30-8:00 Registration
8:00-8:30 Objectives and Clinical Expectations
8:30-9:00 Embryology & Maturation of Feeding and Swallowing
9:00-10:00 NICU Environment: Impact on the Patient and Family
10:00-10:15 Break
10:15-12:00 Brain & Sensory Development
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-1:45 Developmental Care & Impact on Feeding
1:45-3:00 NICU Medical Terminology & Hot Topics
3:00-3:15 Break
3:15-4:45 Suck Patterns & Swallowing Development
4:45-5:00 Questions & Answers

Day 2
8:00-9:00 Feeding Readiness Assessment & Programs
9:00-10:00 Key Components of a Thorough Evaluation
10:00-10:15 Break
10:15-11:00 Key Components of a Thorough Evaluation (cont)
11:00-12:00 Set Up for Success: Pre-Feeding Interventions
12:00-1:00 Lunch (on your own)
1:00-1:45 Positioning Options: Impact on Breathing & Feeding Skills
1:45-3:00 Swallowing & Feeding Interventions
3:00-3:15 Break
3:15-3:45 Sensory Processing Disorders, Oral Aversion, & Severe Swallowing
3:45-4:05 Documentation
4:05-4:30 Successful Transition Home
4:30-5:00 Questions & Answers