

Oral Assessments: The importance in the Nursing Dyad

Objective/Outcomes:

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Define key terms related to infant oral assessments and feeding.
 2. Explain the relationship between oral motor function, feeding, and speech development.
 3. Identify the phases of swallowing and their relevance to successful feeding.
 4. Understand the importance of a holistic approach to feeding assessments, considering anatomical, sensory, and psychosocial factors.
 5. Develop a plan of care for infants with feeding challenges based on assessment findings.
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Content Outline:

1. **Introduction**
 - Welcome and acknowledgments
 - Overview of the session
 - Presenter introduction: Professional background and personal journey
 - Participant engagement: Questions about their roles and interests
2. **Foundational Concepts**
 - The role of SLPs and IBCLCs in supporting the nursing dyad
 - Key definitions (e.g., aspiration, bolus, dysphagia)
 - Goals of successful oral feeding
3. **Anatomy & Physiology of Feeding**
 - Overview of the aerodigestive tract
 - Key structures: Nose, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, and esophagus
 - The phases of swallowing: Oral prep, oral, pharyngeal, esophageal
4. **Developmental Milestones in Feeding**
 - 0-3 months: Sucking and state regulation
 - 3-6 months: Reflex integration and increased oral space
 - 6-9 months: Transition to solids, gag reflex changes
 - 9-12 months: Skill refinement and red flags
5. **Assessment of Feeding and Swallowing**
 - Components of assessment: Case history, feeding history, clinical exam
 - Tools and techniques: Utensils, seating, observation
 - Synthesizing findings into actionable plans
6. **Intervention Strategies**
 - Positioning and oral motor support techniques
 - Addressing lip and tongue function

- Collaboration with multidisciplinary teams (e.g., IBCLCs, OTs, DDS)
 - 7. **Case Studies**
 - Case #1: Infant with shallow latch and bottle refusal
 - Case #2: Application of assessment and intervention strategies
 - 8. **Q&A and Wrap-Up**
 - Open floor for participant questions
 - Summary of key points
 - Resources and further reading
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Disclosure:

The presenter, Kellie, is a speech-language pathologist and certified lactation counselor pursuing the International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) credential. No financial or non-financial conflicts of interest are disclosed. This session is designed for educational purposes only and does not substitute for individualized clinical advice.