

C. Using Gravity to Facilitate Vestibular Activation for Sensory Motor Development

February 27, 2020

8:30 – 4:30 pm

6 Contact Hours (.6 AOTA CEUS)

Eileen W. Richter, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA

Educational Level: Introductory to Intermediate Level

Audience: OTs, PTs, SLPs, educators, music therapists, play therapists, parents and interested others

Course Description

Gravity influences infant development in many ways, from triggering vestibular processing to developing and strengthening muscles. Due to a number of factors, including improper positioning, lack of typical sensory motor opportunities, other environmental factors, and/or diagnoses of failure to thrive, autism, sensory processing disorders, etc., many of today's children are delayed in their sensory motor development when compared with past generations. These delays are particularly apparent in lack of core strength, proximal stability, and upper extremity coordination.

Along with other treatment strategies, gravity can be used by therapists to enhance development, especially in the areas of sensory motor processing, reflex integration and motor coordination. A variety of intervention strategies that engage vestibular mechanisms and take advantage of gravitational influences, including some innovative equipment, will be discussed and demonstrated via labs and video presentation.

Course Objectives

The participant will be able to:

1. Discuss the role that gravity plays in typical infant development.
2. List the ways that positioning and other environmental influences can obstruct or enhance sensory motor development.
3. Demonstrate at least 3-4 strategies to facilitate reflex integration and sensory motor development.
4. Describe innovative equipment for enhancing sensory motor development and how to use them.

Agenda

8:30 - 10:15 The role of gravity in sensory motor development

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 Barriers to development with lab; Antigravity floor lab and demo

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 Principles of treatment and clinical reasoning; Working the core lab

2:30 – 3:00 Break

3:00 - 4:30 Working posture lab; Case examples/analysis

Speaker

Eileen Richter, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA



Eileen Richter has over 30 years of experience working with a variety of disability groups in the public schools, hospitals and private practice. She has her Master of Public Health degree in Maternal & Child Health, is NDT certified and has published a number of books and articles including: *The Sensorimotor Performance Analysis*, (Pileated Press, LLC, 1989), *MORE: Integrating the Mouth with Sensory and Postural Functions* and *Out of the Mouths of Babes: The Developmental Significance of the Mouth* (Pileated Press, LLC.). Ms. Richter has lectured extensively throughout the US, Asia and Europe on topics related to sensory motor dysfunction in children. She is a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association and has directed Avanti-Camp, an intensive sensory integration camp using an advanced treatment model. Ms. Richter continues to support development of the camp and other treatment models, while designing and developing therapeutic equipment.

Disclosure statement: Ms. Richter has an ownership interest in Richter Active Integration Resources, Co-sponsor of the Symposium with no financial interest. She receives royalties from her publications and therapeutic equipment. Ms. Richter receives an honorarium for presenting at the Symposium.

For more information:

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