

SOUTHWEST REHABILITATION

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Spring Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE

Pediatric Feeding

Assessment of pediatric feeding disorders should address four domains

Welcome our new therapists

Please welcome Ashley Warrick and Carrie Brown!

The Four Domains of Feeding Disorders

By Melody Sheldon, ClinScD., CCC-SLP

Feeding issues in children are often assessed using a single lens as the disorder hasn't had an accepted definition. In 2019, however, the term "Pediatric Feeding Disorder" (PFD) was defined by the World Health Organization as oral intake that's not age-appropriate and associated with feeding skills, medical, nutritional, and/or psychosocial dysfunction. This definition has helped to focus attention on the **four domains** of pediatric feeding disorders and assisted in guiding assessment and treatment according to LaManna et al (2023).

Underlying **medical issues** can contribute to feeding difficulties such as gastroesophageal reflux disease. Discomfort during feedings can lead to food refusal.

Malnutrition or the **nutritional domain** needs to be addressed given its implications. A child with multiple food allergies, for example, requires the attention of the allergist and dietitian.



Newest Additions to our Team

By Melody Sheldon

Meet Ashley Warrick, B.S., SLPA from Coos Bay, Oregon (left). Ashley completed her externship at Southwest Rehabilitation and signed on as a permanent therapist in June 2024. Ashley's experience includes work as a substitute teacher and a social-emotional learning intervention specialist. She completed her bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders at Maryville University. Ashley enjoys all aspects of speech therapy but has a special place in her heart for infants with feeding issues and enjoys working with literacy disorders.

Carrie Brown, B.A., SLPA is from Coquille, Oregon (right). Carrie worked at the South Coast Educational Service District and signed on with Southwest Rehabilitation as a permanent therapist in September 2024. Carrie's experience includes working with children who have a variety of speech and language delays and disorders. She is particularly interested in childhood apraxia and the very young with delayed onset of language. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Western Oregon University and completed the SLPA certification from Chemeketa Community College.

Welcome Ashley and Carrie to our team of talented therapists!

Feeding difficulties are often **sensory-motor issues** secondary to illness, injury, or developmental delay. A skill-based impairment can lead to unsafe oral intake such as aspiration and needs to be addressed by a feeding specialist.

Finally, the **psychosocial domain** requires attention and, in many cases, needs assistance from a psychologist or counselor. Children often develop feeding aversions and negative behaviors disrupting mealtime.

Not all children with feeding issues will display impairments in all four of the domains, but each should be examined during the assessment process. Under the framework developed by the WHO, each domain is dependent on the others. This relationship can be assessed using a team approach: medical provider, dietary, speech-language pathologist, and a counselor.



Coletta Manske, M.A., CFY-SLP was recently cast as Sister Margareta, a sympathetic nun in the Sound of Music. In addition to her wonderful performance at the Liberty Theatre, Coletta was recently certified in SPEAK OUT! an evidence-based program that helps Parkinson's patients regain and retain their speech and swallowing.

Coletta will be speaking at the Parkinson's Support Meeting to discuss the benefits of speech therapy for Parkinson's.

FUN FACT- April 11 is World Parkinson's Day!!

Did you know...

Southwest Rehabilitation will be accepting applications for the Communication Disorder Preschool. Apply now!