

SOFFI™:

Supporting Oral Feeding in Fragile Infants NICU and EI

Erin Sundseth Ross, PhD, CCC-SLP

Faculty

Erin Ross, PhD, CC-SLP is the creator of SOFFI™, 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. Non-Financial: She is the Chair of the Advocacy Committee for Feeding Matters and Intellectual Property Owner, SOFFI™. 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 the SOFFI™.

Objectives

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

Audience

Designed for 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.

Schedule – Day 1

7:30-8:00	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:00-9:00	Introduction, Welcome & Family Roles and Expectations for Successful Nurturing and Feeding
9:00-10:00	Feeding as a Developmental Process–Physiologic, Sensory and State Development
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:45	Feeding as a Developmental Process – Oral-Motor Development
11:45-12:45	Lunch (on your own)
12:45-1:30	Feeding as a Developmental Process-Across the first year
1:30-3:00	Medical Issues that Impact Feeding Skills: Chronic lung disease, cardiac defects, oral-Motor deficits, gastrointestinal disorders
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:30	Effects of the NICU Experience: Changing the focus from volume to skill to build a foundation for optimal feeding and growth
4:30-5:15	Developmental Steps to Eating: The BROSS Approach
5:15-5:30	Introduction to the SOFFI™

Schedule – Day 2

7:30-8:00	Continental Breakfast
8:00-10:15	Using SOFFI™ to Guide Decisions Regarding Readiness and Interventions for Infants Not Nipple Feeding
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:45	Using SOFFI™ to Provide Supportive Interventions for Nipple Feeding (1)
11:45-12:45	Lunch (on your own)
12:45-2:30	Using SOFFI™ to Provide Supportive Interventions for Nipple Feeding (2)
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:00	Using SOFFI™ to Provide Supportive Interventions for Nipple 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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This course meets the criteria for 14.5 contact hours (1.45 CEUs). Application has been made to the **NJ** and **LA** Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, and **MN** State Board of Physical Therapy. Approved by the **NC** Physical Therapy Association. The **WI** Physical Therapy Association and the **PA** State Board of Physical Therapy accept other state board's approvals.

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



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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

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Locations and Dates 2019

April 26-27	Raleigh, NC	WakeMed Health and Hospitals
July 19-20	Englewood, NJ	Englewood Hospital and Medical Center
August 9-10	Minneapolis, MN	Abbot Northwestern Hospital
Sept 27-28	Baton Rouge, LA	Woman's Hospital



\$450 fee. Group rate (3 or more) must be mailed/faxed together \$425. Deadline for registration is 3 weeks prior to course. 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™/Ross

April/NC July/NJ Aug/MN Sept/LA

Course Registration Form

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Needed in the event of an emergency scheduling change

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Employer: _____

Discipline: _____ Specialty: _____

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