



Postgraduate Infant Feeding Workshop

Supporting families with breast feeding, bottle feeding, and transition to solids difficulties.

9TH AND 10TH MAY 2024

8:30am – 5pm
Online workshop

Tickets on sale: **January 2024**
(early bird ends on 31st March 2024)

TICKET PRICE:

\$700 early bird/**\$740** full price
(GST is added at checkout)

This two-day workshop is aimed at speech pathologists supporting families with infants and toddlers having feeding difficulties. Join us to develop your knowledge and practical skills in this specialised area of feeding.



FEEDING THERAPY
Australia

feedingtherapyaustralia@gmail.com
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Postgraduate Infant Feeding Workshop

Supporting families with breast feeding, bottle feeding, and transition to solids difficulties.

These two days will utilise case studies and videos to support your learning across the areas below.

Day 1

0 - 6 MONTHS



Day 1 will also include a Guest Speaker:
Lisa Collins, Lactation Consultant, presenting on “Working with a Lactation Consultant to support breastfeeding.”

Embryology and newborn feeding

- » Understanding the difference between nutritive and non-nutritive sucking.
- » Identifying suck – swallow – breathe coordination difficulties in infants.

Oral motor assessment (OMA) in infants

- » Increasing your confidence doing OMAs using practical case videos of OMA in different aged babies and toddlers.
- » Knowing how to assess function vs. structure in oral motor skills.

Breastfeeding

- » Reviewing the anatomy and physiology of human lactation.
- » Understanding the factors that impact breastfeeding including lip and tongue ties.
- » Supporting breastfeeding /chestfeeding – the speech pathology role.
- » Practical strategies around improving breast feeding attachment and sucking strength.
- » Working with caregivers using breast pumps, nipple shields, and supply lines.

Bottle feeding

- » Building your skills with understanding what equipment to use with infants (bottles, teats, and dummies).
- » Problem solving around common bottle-feeding difficulties e.g., weak suck, SSB difficulties.
- » Managing aspiration in infants and knowing when to refer for instrumental testing.
- » Understanding the impact of medical factors including reflux, constipation, allergies and cleft lip and palate on feeding success.
- » Supporting oral aversion in babies.
- » Understanding the different paediatric thickeners in the market and when to use them with your caseload.



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Day 2

6 - 18 MONTHS



Day 2 will also include a Guest Speaker:
Lauren Gladman, Dietitian, presenting on “Growth, nutrition and working collaboratively with dietitians in infant feeding.”

Introduction to solids

- » Understanding the difference between the traditional method of solids introduction and baby led weaning.
- » Supporting readiness for solids in medically complex infants.
- » Building skill development in infants with difficulties transitioning to solids.
- » Sharing equipment ideas for therapy at this early age including sippy cups and straw cups.

Typical Chewing Development

- » Understanding the stages of chewing development in babies and toddlers.
- » Supporting chewing development in children with delayed oral motor skills.

Managing difficulties with transition to texture

Supporting babies who are:

- » Gagging and vomiting on puree.
- » Refusing the spoon.
- » Gagging and refusing textured foods.
- » Refusing solids and wanting breast/bottle feeds.
- » Referred for delayed oral motor skills and solid progression.

Working as a multidisciplinary team

- » Managing an infant feeding clinic.
- » Writing feeding assessment reports.
- » Developing feeding plans for infants.
- » Sharing feeding resources.
- » Problem solving case studies.

*Older children aged 19 months -16 years will be covered in our postgraduate 4 day feeding workshop.



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Postgraduate Paediatric Feeding Workshop

Supporting families with breast feeding, bottle feeding, and transition to solids difficulties.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Debbie Alvarez

Debbie is a speech pathologist with 20 years' experience supporting babies and children with feeding difficulties. She has worked in acute hospital settings including St George and Sydney Children's Hospital, where she met and worked with Val. Debbie is the owner of 'Feeding Kids Sydney', a private practice in Southern Sydney that supports families having difficulty with breast and bottle feeding, the introduction to solids, fussy and restricted eating, as well as children with a disability who require dysphagia management and tube feeding.

Debbie uses responsive feeding techniques in her practice and has, together with Val, developed the Responsive Feeding House Model under their joint business 'Feeding Therapy Australia'. She currently mentors therapists around Australia and has presented both in Australia and internationally.



Valerie Gent

Val is a speech pathologist who has worked in paediatric feeding difficulties for 20 years. She has experience both in acute and disability healthcare models and currently owns 'Let's Eat! Feeding Therapy', a dedicated paediatric feeding private practice in Newcastle.

Val has published a kid's book "I'm NOT Hungry for My Dinner" using the Satter Division of Responsibility principles which received the Elyn Satter Institute (ESI) seal of approval and was shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia 'Book of the Year' awards in 2022. She also completed her Master of Medical Research at Griffith University in 2023 examining 'The impact of feeding difficulties on the participation of primary school aged autistic children and their families' and was given the 'Award of Excellence in a Research Thesis'.

Val currently presents with Debbie under their company, 'Feeding Therapy Australia' and will begin her PhD in 2024.



ATTENDEES HAVE SAID THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THEIR COURSES

"Loved the passion and knowledge of Val and Debbie. Both are great at presenting and were very engaging."

"I got so much out of this workshop, Debbie and Val are amazing, it was very practical."

"Knowledgeable presenters, good resources & models (House model, food wheel). Cheat sheets are great!"

"Thank you so much for sharing your wealth of knowledge and organising it in such an accessible way."



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