

0830

GETTING AND KEEPING CHILDREN “ON TRACK” IN FEEDING

Category: Children, Youth and Families

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Pediatrician Dr. Harvey Karp says that parents who succeed in feeding and calming their babies “feel proud, confident, and on top of the world.” Unfortunately, many parents of children with developmental disabilities do not experience this level of success. Birth to 24-months is a child’s critical learning period for feeding skill development. Diane Bahr (SLP Feeding Therapist) will present a proactive approach to feeding skill acquisition for this critical learning period. Tania Stegen-Hanson (OTD Feeding Therapist) will discuss the treatment of food aversions (a problem commonly seen in children with developmental disabilities). Based on their specialized training and experience in speech and occupational therapy, they will cover comprehensive treatment planning and family-centered activities for the introduction of new foods with the goal of successful mealtime participation.

This **half-day workshop** includes **lecture format, practical demonstration, video presentations of case studies, and review of current research** to help professionals and other care providers:

1. Identify problems in feeding/oral development as early as possible
2. Implement current, evidence-based feeding interventions for children with developmental disabilities

Learning Objectives for an unlimited number of participants:

- Discuss typical vs. atypical oral/feeding development so professionals, parents, and others may proactively facilitate feeding skill acquisition in children from birth to 24 months of age
- Identify components of an effective mealtime environment including cultural beliefs and parental responsibility
- Discuss specific treatment strategies that address and promote a child’s effective processing of sensory information during feeding
- Identify methods to resolve food aversions and “food jags”.

