

International Conference on

Speech Language Pathology

May 22-23, 2017 Las Vegas, USA

Infant feeding difficulties: A look at high-risk populations

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Feeding is the most complex task of infancy, even in term babies with no complications. There are many diagnoses, conditions, syndromes and co-morbidities that can impact feeding in neonates and infants. This talk will briefly highlight many of those, but we will focus on three specific populations of interest: Neonatal abstinence syndrome, Infants of diabetic mothers and Down syndrome. We will discuss the specific implications of these conditions can have on feeding, why these infants may have difficulty and the classic symptoms one could expect to see. The differences between delayed and disordered feeding will also be addressed. Strategies and adaptations for both breast and bottle feeding will be discussed. Positioning, nipple flow rate and external strategies will be explained. Case studies will also be shared.

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