TALKTools®
LEVELS TRAINING GUIDE
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INTRODUCTION

TalkTools® exclusive Level Training Program is designed to provide professional therapists a clear path of continuing education and training related to speech and feeding therapy.

Each Level has its own unique requirements, goals and accomplishments. Herein, you will find a clear path for becoming a Level 4 ACCOMPLISHED professional, starting with Level 1 and progressing up through the clearly defined pathway.

The mission is to help as many children and adults who are afflicted with speech or feeding issues as possible through exponentially expanding the number of qualified therapists through continued training from Level 1 NOVICE to LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHED.

GOALS

- Standardized Quality Training
- Accessible, Attainable & Affordable Courses
- Incentivized And Rewarding Path For Therapists
TRAINING

• Take your career to the next level with specialized training from experienced professionals
• Learn techniques – at each level – that make a difference and that you can immediate apply to your practice
• Incorporate “motor” into your therapy tool kit to benefit your clients.
• Number of participants is limited per training to ensure you receive 1-on-1 immersive training (including live evaluations)

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

• Earn 11.2 CEUs, including 2.8 complimentary self-study credits
• TalkTools® is approved by ASHA and AOTA to provide continuing education offerings. ASHA CEUs are filed by the TalkTools® Continuing Education Team.

DEALS AND DISCOUNTS

• Get discounts on all your purchases on the TalkTools Store
• Receive cool gifts and swag, along with exclusive promotional offers for Level 4 ACCOMPLISHED Therapists

COMMUNITY

• Become part of the worldwide TalkTools Extended Network – with access to expert SLPs, industry leaders and valuable resources
• Participate in forums and discussions with TalkTools Presenters and get your questioned answered
• Be listed as a Preferred SLP on the exclusive TalkTools “Find a Therapist” page.
• Be recognized and acknowledged for your accomplishments through our marketing and social media campaigns
• Become a contributor to the TalkTools Blog and gain valuable exposure for your organization
GOAL

At the completion of LEVEL 1 NOVICE Training, therapists will gain a basic knowledge of Oral Placement Therapy techniques and can begin implementation of these techniques into their practice.

WHO CAN ATTEND

Qualified participants include (but may not be limited to):

• Speech and Language Pathologists
• Occupational Therapists
• Physical Therapists
• Board Certified Behavior Analysts
• Nurses
• Special Education Teachers.
REQUIREMENTS
To be considered a TalkTools® LEVEL 1 NOVICE Professional, participants must meeting the following requirements

1. LEVEL 1 COURSES

• **Three-Part Treatment Plan for Oral Placement Therapy (Introduction to Oral Placement Therapy)**
  Course Summary - TalkTools® innovative tactile-sensory approach to speech therapy uses therapy tools to train and transition muscle movements for speech production. Learn how 40 highly motivating motor activities can be used to improve phonation, resonation, and speech clarity... read more

  CEUs - 12 Contact Hours (1.2 CEUs) *

• **Feeding Therapy: A Sensory Motor Approach (Feeding Fundamentals)**
  Course Summary - in this Sensory/Motor Approach to Feeding class, the complex issues surrounding feeding disorders are discussed. The class reflects new research and understanding of sensory processing and the impact on feeding.

  CEUs - 12 Hours (1.2 CEUs)

COMPLETION

Upon completion of both courses, participants will be considered qualified to move to LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE Training.

Find upcoming courses in your area on the TalkTools Event Calender

*Note: If a participant is unable to attend a live workshop, or has already completed a self-study version via TalkTools University of the above courses, considerations will be made to facilitate the therapists through the Levels Program.*
GOAL

To continue to expand ability to implement OPT techniques while gaining additional knowledge regarding evaluations and program planning.

WHO CAN ATTEND

Anyone who has successfully completed LEVEL 1 NOVICE Training

Qualified participants include (but may not be limited to):

• Speech and Language Pathologists
• Occupational Therapists
• Physical Therapists
• Board Certified Behavior Analysts
• Nurses
• Special Education Teachers
REQUIREMENTS

To be considered a TalkTools® LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE Professional, participants must meet the following requirements

1. PREREQUISITESS
   Prerequisite Courses
   - LEVEL 1

   Note: If a participant is unable to attend a live workshop, or has already completed a self-study version of Level 1 courses, considerations will be made to facilitate the therapist through the Levels Program.

2. LEVEL 2 COURSE
   - Oral Placement Therapy: Assessment and Program Plan Development

   Course Summary - learn how to perform a comprehensive evaluation for clients with sensory, feeding and/or speech disorders following the principles of the TalkTools® hierarchical approach to oral-motor assessment and treatment using the techniques learned

   CEUs - 12 Hours (1.2 CEUs)

COMPLETION

Upon completion of both courses, participants will be considered qualified to move to LEVEL 3 ADVANCED Training.

Find upcoming courses in your area on the TalkTools Event Calender
GOAL

To further develop and expand abilities in order to optimize Oral Placement Therapy applications in the areas of Sensory, Motor, & Speech

WHO CAN ATTEND

Qualified participants include (but may not be limited to):

- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- Nurses
- Special Education Teachers.

Capable participants are specialists who work directly with individuals with oral placement disorders (OPD) and feeding deficits. Children with OPD cannot imitate targeted speech sounds, using authority and visual stimuli (i.e., "Look, listen, and say what I say"). They also cannot follow specific instructions to produce targeted speech sounds (i.e., "Put your lips together and say "m").

REQUIREMENTS

To be considered a TalkTools® LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE Professional, participants must meet the following requirements

1. PREREQUISITES
   a. Prerequisite Courses
      - LEVEL 1
      - LEVEL 2
   b. LEVEL 3 ADVANCED Application - Participants who complete Levels 1 and 2 are eligible to submit an application for LEVEL 3 ADVANCED TRAINING
   c. Hands-on integration of TalkTools® techniques for a minimum of 6 months

2. PRE-TRAINING COURSE WORK
   - Jaw Stability and Speech Clarity
     Course Summary - This course was created to provide step-by-step techniques to diagnose treat jaw instability and weakness.
Complimentary access to this TalkTools® on-demand course will be issued to participants upon approval of LEVEL 3 ADVANCED 3 Application. Participants will also be issued access to the required pre-training course, "Jaw Stability & Speech Clarity."

CEUs -- 3 hours (0.3 CEUs)

3. EXAM

Participants must pass the Exam to qualify for inclusion in the LEVEL 3 ADVANCED Training. This test will be provided to applicants upon TalkTools® receipt of completed application.

*If participant does not pass the Exam, they may retake and resubmit at a later date*

**Additional Instructions**

- Submit LEVEL 3 ADVANCED Training Application.
- Submit completed Exam -- participants will receive an approval notification email within ten (10) business days of submission.
- Submit $500 non-refundable deposit within ten (10) business days of approval notification email. (Deposit is required to reserve your space in the training roster) Upon receipt of deposit, participant will be provided access to the mandatory pre-training course course via TalkTools University.
- Complete on-demand self-study prerequisites (as previously outlined). Confirmation of successful completion off self-study prerequisite.
- Submit final payment (remaining balance) forty-five (45) days prior to your scheduled training start date.

**Fees**

Tuition - 1750 (includes $500 deposit)*

*This rate is subject to change, and is only applicable to TalkTools® hosted training events within the United States.

Note: Participants are responsible for all travel related expenses.
LEVEL 3 COURSE

• Oral Placement Therapy for Professionals Working with Individuals with Muscle-Based Speech & Feeding Deficits

Course Summary - this live three-day course teaches participants how to work with clients, who exhibit muscle-based speech and feeding deficits, using an Oral Placement Therapy (OPT) approach.

Class is limited to 8 professionals ensuring therapists will receive one on one support in a cultivating environment as they perfect their skills.

CEUs – 24 hours (2.4 CEUs) -- Participants will receive an additional complimentary 0.4 CEUs

COMPLETION
Upon completion of Levels 1 and 2, participants will be eligible to apply for Level 4 training.

Find upcoming courses in your area on the TalkTools Event Calender

TALKTOOLS® LEVEL 3 ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS

• Be listed as a preferred SLP on the “Find a Therapist” page at TalkTools.com

• Obtain a diploma suitable for framing

• Qualify for 15% discount at TalkTools.com

• Receive a complimentary copy of “A Sensory-Motor Approach to Feeding”

• Qualify for consideration for Level 4 Training

• See complete list on Level 3 Benefits page

• See “The Value” page for overall Level Training Program Benefits
LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHED

GOAL

Enhanced knowledge of the connection between sensory, feeding, speech, and behavior to “bring it all together” and apply learned techniques to improve speech clarity and feeding skills.

WHO CAN ATTEND

Additional requirements are essential components of LEVEL 3 ADVANCED and LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHED training. Review the requirements outlined below.

Qualified participants include (but may not be limited to):
• Speech and Language Pathologists
• Occupational Therapists
• Physical Therapists
• Board Certified Behavior Analysts
• Nurses
• Special Education Teachers.
• Capable participants are specialists who work directly with individuals with Oral Placement Disorders (OPD) and feeding deficits.

Children with OPD cannot imitate targeted speech sounds, using authority and visual stimuli (i.e., “Look, listen, and say what I say.”). They also cannot follow specific instructions to produce targeted speech sounds (i.e., “Put your lips together and say m.”)

REQUIREMENTS

1. PREREQUISITES
   a. Prerequisite Courses
      • LEVEL 1
      • LEVEL 2
      • LEVEL 3
   b. LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHED Application
   c. Hands-on integration of TalkTools® techniques for a minimum of 6 months

2. PRE-TRAINING COURSE WORK
   • Oral Placement Therapy for Professionals Working with Individuals with Muscle-Based Speech & Feeding Deficits
**Course Summary** - this course demonstrates how activities which utilize a tactile approach (OPT) in conjunction with auditory and visually-based apraxia therapy techniques, can improve speech clarity in clients diagnosed with apraxia of speech. The TalkTools® Complete Apraxia Kit is included with purchase of Apraxia course. Participants must bring kit with them for use during LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHED training.

CEUs – 6 hours (0.6 CEUs)

3. EXAM

Participants must pass the Exam to qualify for inclusion in the Level 4 Training. This test will be provided to applicants upon TalkTools® receipt of completed application. The Exam includes:

- A video of an Oral Placement Therapy (OPT) for feeding and speech evaluation performed by a TalkTools® Instructor.
- Applicants will be required to watch the video and develop a Program Plan and Assessment using the TalkTools® Evaluation Form for the specific evaluation.
- Program Plan and Assessment must include the following: Sensory-Motor, Feeding, OPT and Speech activities.

*Feedback will be provided as pass/fail. If failed, suggestions for areas to study and a new client video may be provided to applicant for a second attempt.*

4. LEVEL 4 COURSE

- **Advanced Training: Integrating Sensory, Motor, Feeding and Speech for Evaluation and Treatment**

  **Course Summary** - This live three-day course allows participants to further develop the skills learned in the TalkTools® Level 3 training, with a strong emphasis on hands-on training. Therapists learn how to integrate activities for sensory, motor, feeding and speech from evaluation to therapy planning and execution.

CEUs – 24 hours (2.4 CEUs) -- Participants will receive an additional complimentary 12 Contact Hours (1.2 CEUs) for prerequisites

**BENEFITS**

**TALKTOOLS® LEVEL 4 ACCOMPLISHED PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS**

- Be listed as a preferred SLP on the “Find a Therapist” page at TalkTools.com
- Professionally Mounted Diploma (in addition to Completion Certificate)
- Qualify for 20% discount at TalkTools.com
- Special Completion Gift to highlight your dedication
- Receive invitations to participate in online group discussions
- See complete list on Level 4 Benefits page
- See “The Value” page for overall Level Training Program Benefits