



LEVELS

ORAL PLACEMENT THERAPY
TRAINING PROGRAM

TALKTOOLS®



LEVELS

HYBRID
LEARNING
MODEL

*self-study + live/virtual
sessions with OPT
subject matter experts*

10.8
CE CREDITS

Change Your Therapy— Change Lives!

Advanced. Acclaimed. Amazing.

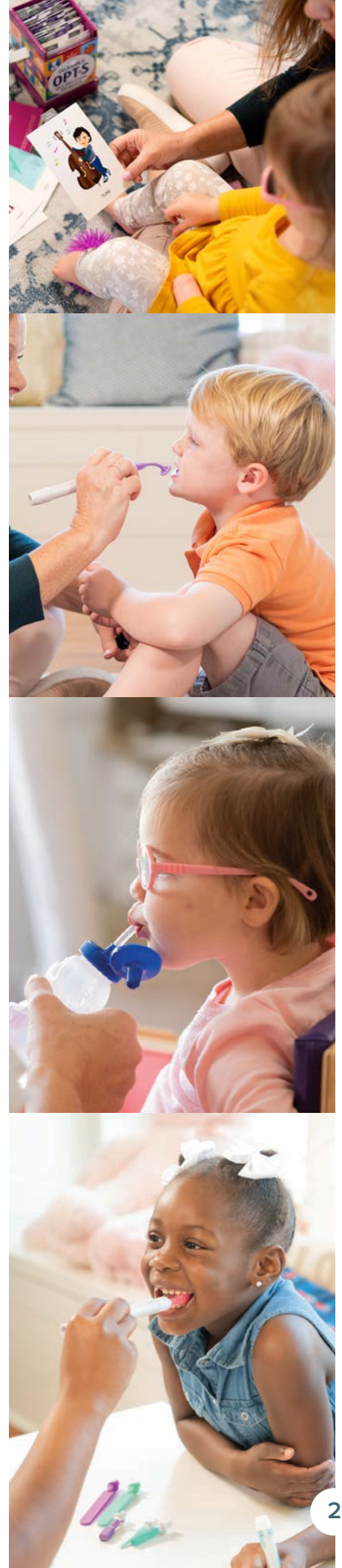
TalkTools® exclusive Level Training is the only comprehensive, advanced training program for OPT available. Graduates of the upper levels of the program can become **Oral Placement Therapy (OPT) Level Therapists**.

Training Includes:

- 4 levels of training to take you through a journey of knowledge and expertise
- 100 total hours of learning
- self-study modules
- Train with our expert instructors who will teach you to develop and customize your own results-based programs with your clients
- Learn new "sensory-motor" techniques, at each level, that can be immediately integrated into your practice
- extensive hands-on, mentoring OPT sessions on diagnostics, analysis, and program plan development

“For a hands on class it works perfectly through the virtual learning. I loved that we were on the evaluations with the participants and we were able to observe and assess as if we were in the office.”

— VERUSHKA RIVERA-COLON, LEVEL 3 THERAPIST (GRADUATE IN AUGUST 2020)



LEVEL 1

COURSES

Learn techniques that can improve outcomes and change lives for the better!

REQUIREMENTS

1 3-Part Treatment Plan for OPT*

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, resonance, and speech clarity. Interactive demonstrations will focus on techniques to develop oral-motor movements for improved speech clarity. Muscles of the abdomen, velum, jaw, lips, and tongue will be discussed within the parameters of movements necessary for speech production.

2 Feeding Therapy: A Sensory Motor Approach*

In this workshop, the complex issues surrounding feeding disorders are discussed. The class reflects new research and understanding of sensory processing and the impact on feeding. Pre-feeding exercises designed to develop the motor skills for safe, effective, nutritive feeding and therapeutic feeding techniques are targeted.

TESTING | No Pre-testing, e-learning courses include a multiple choice post-test

TIMELINE | Self-paced, we recommend you take time to implement these new techniques before moving to the next Level

UPON COMPLETION YOU WILL:

- Learn how to help those clients that may not respond to traditional techniques – this is a therapy that can improve outcomes and change lives for the better!
- Take the two courses in this level and gain a basic knowledge of OPT techniques to improve feeding and speech
- Begin implementation of these techniques into your practice
- Special one-time discount upon completion of both courses

2.4 CEUs

TRAINING | \$175-\$375 USD per course.

Varies according to type of format (live, e-learning)

LEVEL 2

COURSES

You've got the foundational knowledge - now you can put it into action!

REQUIREMENTS

1 OPT: Assessment and Program Plan Development*

This class will lead you through the assessment process used with clients of varying ages and skill levels who evidence oral placement deficits. Participants will observe two complete assessment sessions and follow up treatment with clients from infancy to adult, and will learn how to identify oral-motor deficits that affect speech production.

2 Sensory Processing and Speech: Making the Connection

This course focuses on how the sensory system impacts speech and feeding. Participants will learn to understand typical vs. atypical reactions to sensory input, how to assess sensory processing disorders, and how to apply sensory integration methods in a therapy session to achieve self-regulation.

TESTING | No Pre-testing, e-learning courses include a multiple choice post-test

TIMELINE | Self-paced, we recommend you take time to implement these new techniques before moving to the next Level

UPON COMPLETION YOU WILL:

- Continue to understand how and when to use OPT techniques and best practices
- Use a tactile, Kinesthetic approach to address oral-motor disorders
- Gain confidence to perform evaluations and program plans
- Special discounts
- You are eligible to apply for Level 3

1.8 CEUs

TRAINING | \$125-\$375 USD per course.

Varies according to type of format (live, e-learning)

LEVEL 3

UPPER LEVEL COURSES

Optimize OPT techniques while improving evaluation and program planning

REQUIREMENTS | Level 1 & 2 Completion

- 1 Demonstrate use of OPT techniques in a therapy setting for a minimum of 6-12 months.
- 2 Upon acceptance into Level 3 (see page 5 for details), you will be given two complimentary courses to watch before the dates of the Level 3 training.
 - Jaw Stability and Speech Clarity 0.3 CEUs
 - Prevention of Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders in the 0-3 Population 0.3 CEUs
 - Level 3 / 3-Day Live/Virtual Training Session 2.4 CEUs

The participants in this course learn how to integrate Oral Placement Therapy (OPT) techniques into a step-by-step assessment process and the generation of a program plan to be used in treatment. A variety of clients with muscle-based communication and/or feeding disorders are available for observation and hands-on practice under the supervision of a TalkTools instructor.

TESTING

Pre-test: Written (Online)

Post-test: multiple choice and 2 essays

TIMELINE | 6-12 months of implementation before moving to next level, application process is 3 months

UPON COMPLETION YOU WILL:

- Comprehensive training including case studies to optimize OPT techniques
- Broaden evaluation and program plan expertise
- Your increased knowledge will set you up for success within your practice
- Increased understanding of roles and how to be part of an inter-disciplinary team
- Access to the broader TT Therapist Team
- Find a Therapist designation on the TT website
- Working knowledge applicable to COM/OP/etc certification
- TT product discounts (15%)
- Special conference discounts (50%)

3.0 CEUs

TRAINING WORKSHOP | \$2,000 USD

Live or Virtual / Includes 2 free e-learning courses

LEVEL 4

UPPER LEVEL COURSES

Expand your knowledge and test your skills during real-time mentoring sessions

REQUIREMENTS | Level 1, 2 & 3 Completion

- 1 Demonstrate use of OPT techniques in a therapy setting for a minimum of 6-12 months after Level 3
- 2 Upon acceptance into Level 4 (see page 5 for details), you will be given a complimentary course to watch before the dates of the Level 3 training.
 - Assessment & Remediation of Tethered Oral Tissues (TOTS) 1.2 CEUs
 - Level 4 / 3-Day Live/Virtual Training Session 2.4 CEUs

This course teaches sensory-motor techniques that can be integrated with more traditional behavioral feeding and speech approaches when a muscle-based deficit is identified. A variety of clients with muscle-based speech and feeding disorders will be available for hands-on practice under the supervision of a TalkTools instructor.

TESTING

Pre-test: Written (Online)

Post-test: Complete a written program plan and video of a client

TIMELINE | 6-12 months, application process is 3 months

UPON COMPLETION YOU WILL:

- Expanded knowledge of the sensory, feeding, speech and behavioral connection
- Hands-on evaluation and techniques with clients
- Extensive application of cumulative OPT training in a therapy setting
- Increased understanding of roles and how to be part of an inter-disciplinary team
- Access to the broader TT Therapist Team
- TT Team Council
- Find a Therapist designation on the TT website
- Working knowledge applicable to COM/OP/etc certification
- TT product discounts (20%)
- Special conference discounts (50%)
- *Preferred Instructor

3.6 CEUs

TRAINING WORKSHOP | \$2,500 USD

Live or Virtual / Includes 1 free 12 hour course

How to Apply

- ***There is no application necessary for Level 1 or Level 2 coursework.***
- After completing the 4 courses for Level 1 and 2, you may apply for a Level 3 Training course.
- After completing Levels 1, 2 and 3, you may apply for a Level 4 Training course.

Tell me more about the application process for Upper Levels...

- 1 Fill out application on the website
- 2 Applications reviewed and approved by TalkTools CE Dept.
- 3 When your application is approved, you will receive a link to the appropriate Level pre-test/exam.
- 4 You will have 14 days to submit your exam.
- 5 Pre-exams are reviewed and approved by TalkTools Level 3 & 4 Instructors.
- 6 Upon notice that you have passed the exam, a deposit of \$500 must be made within 7 days to reserve your spot in the course.
- 7 You will then receive access to the complimentary courses that accompany that Upper Level training courses.
- 8 Provided you complete the coursework by the date of the workshop, you are officially set to go!

Who can participate in the Level training program?

Although anyone can take a TalkTools course, the Upper Levels Program is for:

- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- Dental or medical professionals
- Special Education Teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

To take Level 1 courses, how do I get started?

You will go the Training section on the website and take the above mentioned courses at a time that works for you.

Do the two Level 1 courses have to be completed in a particular order?

No, they do not.

Do I have to register for both of the Level 1 courses at once?

Is there a time frame in which both of the Level 1 courses have to be completed by?

You can register for them at the same time or years apart, it is up to you. This is a self-paced program.

I have completed the courses required for Level 1 and would like to proceed to level 2. Will I get something from TalkTools stating I have passed level 1 before I can move on to level 2?

You are issued a Certificate of Completion after any live or virtual course. This is all you need to proceed. You will need to show the certificates for Level 1 and Level 2 courses when you apply for Level 3.

I finished Level 1 and Level 2 and want to proceed to the next Level... What is the next step?

Fill out the application for Level 3 found on our website. Be sure you have verification (certificates) to show that you have taken the 4 prerequisite courses before applying.

Can I take some of the courses live and some of them as e-learning courses? Or do they all have to be live?

The prerequisite courses can be taken live, or virtually on the TalkTools e-learning platform. Times and dates for live courses are listed on the TT website under Training Schedule. E-learning courses are listed under E-learning.

I live outside of the USA. Can I apply for Level 3 training?

Yes, you must follow the path and complete Level 1 and Level 2 coursework. But once that is completed, you can apply to attend a Level 3 training. We hold them live and virtually, mostly in the US but also in other countries. They can be found on the Training Schedule.

How long does it take to get through the Levels Program?

It is generally recommended to put the techniques you learn into practice for a minimum of 6 months between Levels. Although the techniques can be put into place the very next day, your use of Oral Motor techniques will get better over time and practice. The total time to get through all the Levels will be determined by you, as well as fulfilling the requirement for each level.

Meet the Experts



Monica Purdy, MA, CCC-SLP

Monica Purdy has more than 17 years of professional experience specializing in helping children with special needs to communicate. Monica is PROMPT and SOS trained, familiar with sign language, and wellversed in the use of augmentative devices. She is the owner of Kids Abilities in Indianapolis, IN. In addition to her private practice, Monica is a member of the TalkTools® speakers bureau and has been invited to speak at numerous conventions and seminars across the U.S. and internationally. She is a graduate of Ball State University.



Renee Roy Hill, MS, CCCSLP, COM®

Renee Roy Hill has provided therapeutic assessments and program planning for adults and children with oral placement, feeding and motor speech deficits for over 17 years. She is the owner of Crossroads Therapy Clinic in New Braunfels, TX and a member of the TalkTools® speakers bureau. Renee has been an invited speaker for ASHA state conventions and has received specialized training in speech/oral-motor/feeding therapy, Apraxia, sensory processing disorders, Hanen Courses, NDT training, TAMO therapy and PROMPT. She is the creator of the TalkTools® Schedule Board Kit, co-author of Ice Sticks, and author of the TalkTools® Apraxia Program.



Robyn Merkel-Walsh, MA, CCC-SLP, COM®

Robyn Merkel-Walsh has specialized for over 24 years in OPT, myofunctional disorders and feeding disorders. She is employed by the Ridgefield Board of Education, runs a private practice in Ridgefield, NJ, is the board chair of the Oral Motor Institute, and is a member of the TalkTools® speakers bureau. She teaches TOTs, Autism and Tongue Thrust courses in addition to multiple webinars on topics including but not limited to lisps, oral structure, Orofacial Myofunctional Disorder, feeding and clinical parameters for Autism Spectrum Disorder. Robyn has been invited to speak on Oral Placement disorders by Conversations in Speech Pathology, Bergen County Region V, the IAOM, The Apraxia Network, AAPPSPA and the MOSAIC Foundation. Robyn has received specialized training in Oral Placement Disorders, feeding, apraxia, Applied Behavioral Analysis, autism, cranio-facial anomalies, Beckman Techniques and PROMPT. Robyn was awarded the Ridgefield Women in History Month's Business Woman of the Year in 2019. Robyn is also the co-author of Functional Improvements of Speech, Feeding, and Sleep After Lingual Frenectomy Tongue-Tie Release: A Prospective Cohort Study

What people are saying...

"The OPT training felt like a new revolution in speech language therapy. I'm excited to try on my patients."

"What an eye opener this course has been. Thank you!"

– 3 PART TREATMENT PLAN
FOR OPT PARTICIPANT

"This course provides not only theories, but also very applicable techniques that we can use directly to those who need it."

– LEVEL 3 ATTENDEE

"I use everything I have learned through Talk Tools every day in therapy. I also love that if I have a question, I can email for help. I haven't had to do that for a while, but in the beginning I did and never hesitated to do so."

– LEVEL 3 ATTENDEE

"AMAZING course. I learned so much and can't wait to implement my new skills in therapy sessions."

– SENSORY FEEDING
COURSE PARTICIPANT