

# Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology

Volume 14(2), 2012. Reviewer: Julie Cichero

*The Dysphagia Placement Workbook* is a small, lightweight companion that will travel well from lectures to hospital ward. Careful design is evident with two pre-placement quizzes on general dysphagia knowledge, oral hygiene, and aspiration pneumonia. Provision is made for both UK and Australian speech language pathology students. Care has been taken to combine important information from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and Speech Pathology Australia. In addition to pre-placement quizzes, the book contains 14 placement activities designed to educate and engage students, while also offering opportunities for reflection. Lined pages provide opportunity to write responses directly on to the book. No two books will be exactly the same, as students are required to reflect upon cases they have seen under supervision.

Each section begins with a list of resources in the form of journal articles and websites. Supervisors will benefit most from this book if they collate resource lists for students to read prior to observations or practical tasks. It is anticipated that students would need at least one hour to review the resource material prior to completing activities.

The workbook also makes use of role-plays in recognition that patient safety comes first. For example, in addition to completing an oro-motor assessment on a colleague prior to patient contact, students are prompted to reflect and write "if they had the opportunity to do the task again, what would they do differently?" Other novel learning techniques include: prompting to write a script with a colleague about how to deliver "bad news" (e.g. that the client can't eat or drink) after a videofluoroscopy. Although efforts have been made to include paediatric resources for many of the sections, the book is probably best suited for adult clients. It is not setting specific. The workbook is designed to operate in conjunction with a textbook by the same authors: *Developing Clinical Skills in Dysphagia: A Guide for Speech and Language Therapists*.

The 14 activities covered include essential elements such as general observation, information gathering, oral motor assessment, oral trials and information on thickened liquids, modified diets and non-oral feeding. In addition, clinical documentation, management and working with others are covered. Instrumental assessment such as videofluoroscopy and fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing is addressed. A dysphagia placement checklist completes the book, with a place for the supervisor to provide comment on each activity, sign and date.