

Speech Therapy in Cleft Palate and Velopharyngeal Dysfunction

The Spires Cleft Centre SLT Team

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If you are looking for a comprehensive, yet easy to follow guide to speech problems caused by a structural defect such as cleft palate, then this is the book for you. The Spires Cleft Centre Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team have compiled a book with chapters covering all issues facing speech and language therapists working in the field of cleft palate and velopharyngeal dysfunction (VPD) in the UK today. These include:

- Assessment, diagnosis and management of VPD
- Associated hearing problems
- Associated voice problems
- Therapy approaches for varying age groups
- Associated syndromic diagnoses
- Quality of Life and the impact of VPD on a child and their family
- Involving parents and schools in therapy intervention

Clear chapter headings make it easy to dip in and out of and to recommend specific reading to colleagues working in the community and students alike. Each chapter is clearly written with aims stated at the beginning and useful boxes to explain terminology, outline research and present case studies to illustrate points made in the chapter. Further reading and useful internet links are also recommended.

Of particular use to SLTs new to working with disorders of resonance and cleft speech are the chapters dedicated to therapy techniques, especially with regard to active nasal fricatives and how to diagnose and treat them. There are also useful chapters on the issues of joint working between community and specialist SLTs, particularly with regard to children with other complex needs.

The book comes with a CD to accompany it which includes some resources, advice leaflets and a very brief screen for resonance (Rapid Assessment of Resonance). I'm uncertain how useful a resource the CD will be as many departments will already have similar resources to hand and some of the pictures on the CD are scanned illustrations which have not reproduced very well. Having said that, it serves as a useful guide to the sort of resources you might need.

Above all this book provides clear explanations on this topic and is suitable for student SLTs, those new to disorders of resonance and cleft type speech and for other professionals working in the field of cleft palate.

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