

**2026 Pediatric Medical Speech Pathology**  
**April 24-25, 2026**  
**Medical Center East Room 8380 | Vanderbilt Medical Center**

**ABOUT**

Presenters will discuss best practices in the diagnosis and treatment of feeding and swallowing disorders for pediatric patients in both the inpatient and outpatient setting. This conference will focus on effective collaboration with other disciplines and will emphasize evidence-based techniques that can be implemented in daily evaluation and treatment. Laura Brooks, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, BCS-S will discuss how neurologic, cardiopulmonary, upper airway, and gastrointestinal anomalies can impact pediatric feeding and swallowing.

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Describe and discuss anatomical anomalies and their impact on pediatric feeding and swallowing.
- Describe the primary issues associated with aspiration during feeding in pediatric patients
- List three ways to encourage collaboration across disciplines and describe why pediatric patients treated in a collaborative environment have better outcomes
- List three GI problems that affect feeding and swallowing in pediatric patients and describe best practices in managing them
- Describe where inpatient pediatric SLPs, OTs, and PTs, share scope of practice and best practices for using that collaborative effort to the benefit of patients.
- List five evidence-based feeding therapy techniques of use in the outpatient setting
- Describe how neurologic, cardiopulmonary, upper airway, and gastrointestinal anomalies can impact pediatric feeding and swallowing.



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

**Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center**

Intermediate Level

1.0 ASHA CEUs

**Satisfactory completion**

Satisfactory completion of this course requires attendance at the course (as documented by sign-in/out sheets), completion and submission of the self-assessment at the conclusion of the course, and completion and submission of the course evaluation at the conclusion of the course.

## Pediatric Medical Speech Pathology Conference 2026

APRIL 24, 2026

Time	Session Tit	Speaker(s)
8:30-8:55	Registration and Breakfast	
8:55-9:00	Welcome	Nan Hancock & Shannon Guarnere
9:00- 10:00	Anatomical Limitations for Newborn Feeding	Jim Phillips, MD
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15 - 11:15	Digestive Function of...the Lungs? Pulmonary Considerations in Aspiration	James Clegg, DO
11:15-12:30	Breaking Down the Silos: Effective Collaboration as a Speech-Language Pathologist	Amy Obenauer, MA, CCC-SLP & Maclain Stanley, MS, CCC-SLP
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 -2:30	Pediatric Gastroenterology for the SLP: What You Need to Know	Jordan Busing, MD
2:30-2:45	Break	
2:45-3:45	Interdisciplinary Therapy Team Collaboration in the Acute Care Setting	Anna Conneely, DPT, Elizabeth Denton, OTR/L, & Margaret Johnston, MS, CCC-SLP
3:45-4:45	Building Your Feeding Therapy Toolbox: Essential Tools for Pediatric Dysphagia and Feeding Disorders	Maya Hammond, MS, CF-SLP, & Shannon Guarnere, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC
4:45-5:00	Discussion and questions from day one	

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

Time	Session Title	Speaker(s)
8:30 – 9:00	Breakfast	
9:00 – 10:30	Improving Feeding Outcomes for Pediatric Patients Through Interdisciplinary Collaboration	Laura Brooks, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, BCS-S
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45-12:15	Presentation continued	
12:15-12:45	Q & A with Laura Brooks	

The focus of this session is to improve the clinician's understanding of how neurologic, cardiopulmonary, upper airway, and gastrointestinal anomalies interact with feeding/swallowing and to review the current evidence to help guide the clinician in feeding assessment and treatment. Pediatric feeding/swallowing intervention often involves a multidisciplinary team, and this session provides an overview of how important interdisciplinary collaboration is for these patients.

## SPEAKER DISCLOSURES

### **Jim Phillips, MD**

Jim Phillips receives a salary as a Pediatric Otolaryngologist at Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **James Clegg, DO**

James Clegg receives a salary as a Pediatric Pulmonologist at Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Amy Obenauer, MA, CCC-SLP**

Amy Obenauer receives a salary as a Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Maclain Stanley, MS, CCC-SLP**

Maclain Stanley receives a salary as a Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Jordan Busing, MD**

Jordan Busing receives a salary as a Pediatric Gastroenterologist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Anna Conneely, DPT**

Anna Conneely receives a salary as a Pediatric Physical Therapist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Elizabeth Denton, OTR/L**

Elizabeth Denton receives a salary as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Margaret Johnson, MS, CCC-SLP**

Anna Conneely receives a salary as a Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Maya Hammond, MS, CCC-CFY**

Anna Conneely receives a salary as a Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Shannon Guarnere, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC**

Anna Conneely receives a salary as a Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist from Vanderbilt Medical Center and has no other relevant relationships to disclose.

### **Laura Brooks, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, BCS-S**

Laura Brooks receives a salary from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and is a board-certified specialist in feeding and swallowing disorders. She is a co-leader for multiple teams at the International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative (IDDSI) and is receiving a speaking fee for this presentation.