

# Evaluation and Treatment of Velopharyngeal Dysfunction and Speech Disorders Related to Repaired Cleft Palate

*Kerry Mandulak, PhD*

This presentation will describe and demonstrate techniques to evaluate / treat speech disorders related to cleft palate and velopharyngeal dysfunction. Focus will be on choosing appropriate techniques based upon specific speech characteristics. Presentation will be interactive and participants are encouraged to bring specific questions with regard to their individual caseloads.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- identify speech production errors and/or speech characteristics that may indicate velopharyngeal dysfunction (VPD);
- identify appropriate therapy techniques based upon observed speech characteristics of VPD in order to create appropriate goals and objectives for treatment;
- give specific examples of when speech therapy is appropriate for children with VPD and when it would be appropriate to discontinue treatment and/or refer back to a cleft/craniofacial team.

**Kerry Callahan Mandulak, PhD**, is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Portland State University. Her clinical expertise is in the evaluation and treatment of children with cleft lip and palate and craniofacial disorders, and her research interests include the development of speech perception and production in children with repaired cleft palate. She was a member of the Duke Medical Center Cleft Palate Board for 8 years, and a member of the Cleft Palate Team at the Children's Hospital of Orange County for 3 years prior to that. Kerry is happily anticipating becoming more involved in the speech pathology community in the Portland / Vancouver area, and she greatly appreciates the opportunity to present at this conference.