

***A Myofunctional Approach to Speech and Feeding Therapy: Success for Your Child
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Description: Learn what myofunctional therapy is and how it may fit into your child's therapeutic needs. Understand how a myofunctional therapist often works in conjunction with a dentist, orthodontist, ENT, periodontist, bodywork specialist, or lactation consultant to address the neuromuscular re-education of re-patterning of the oral and facial muscles. Be introduced to therapeutic exercises can be used to target strengthening, behavior modification, dissociation and grading of the facial muscles and tongue which promote proper tongue position, and improve breathing, chewing, swallowing, and articulation.

Orofacial Myology: The study of the facial muscles, their associated movements and how those movements affect the functions of respiration, swallowing, mastication, speech, craniofacial development and oral resting posture. It is the neuromuscular re-education or re-patterning of the oral and facial muscles. When a change in patterning occurs a resulting change in muscular function and structure may occur. Changes can be attributed, but are not limited to genetics, birth trauma and anomalies, lack of patent airway, surgical intervention affecting the head and neck, inappropriate development of the swallow, or noxious habit patterns.

Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders (OMD) are:
Abnormal habit patterns involving the tongue, lips, jaw, and face

OMDs affect all 4 aspects of oral function:

- Tongue and lip resting postures
- Chewing/Eating
- Swallowing
- Speaking

Why be concerned about OMDs?

- Misarticulation of speech sounds
- Dental Eruption and Malocclusion
- Cosmetic Problems
- Jaw growth and position can change
- Orofacial growth
- Chewing/Swallowing
- Breathing

What will Myofunctional Therapy do?

The goal is to utilize an individualized treatment plan to restore/create a normal "freeway space", eliminate noxious habits, maintain closed lips at rest, normalize a closed dental rest posture, correct tongue placement at rest, correct tongue placement during swallowing, modify the oral phase of swallowing, produce correct speech patterns/articulation, and generalize and habituate the new patterns and behaviors