

## FOREWORD

We begin the new year and a new volume of *Seminars in Speech and Language* with the second of two issues on pediatric dysphagia. The first issue presented a brief review of the anatomy and physiology of the swallowing mechanism, its embryological development, and the emergence of swallowing skills in infants before focusing our attention on the assessment and management of a variety of respiratory, neurological, and anatomical abnormalities that are often present among young children who have swallowing and feeding disorders. The range and complexity of developmental and health problems that many of these children have often exceed the knowledge and skills that can reasonably be expected of any health care professional. Thus, the articles in this issue center around the team approach to managing pediatric dysphagia.

Dr. Joan Arvedson, Children's Hospital of Buffalo and School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Dr. Maureen Lefton-Greif, Johns Hopkins Children's Center, have

assembled another group of authors with specialized training and experience in working with this clinical population to help us better understand the complex spectrum of problems that have to be managed. After reading their accounts of how an interdisciplinary team works to resolve not only the swallowing and feeding problems of infants and children, but also the problems of parents and other family members that may hamper the effective treatment of a child's dysphagia, it was apparent to me that a team is needed to manage the diversity of problems that often accompany or result from this condition. For some of us, this issue may be an enlightening introduction to an unfamiliar clinical population and its treatment. For those who work in settings with such children, it will be a source of experience-tested ideas, strategies, and techniques that can be applied immediately in their own clinical practice.

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