CHIROPRACTIC SOCIETY WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 2025

4 HOURS - BIRTH AND THE BRAIN - THE CONTINUUM OF BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING

Hour 1

- Intro and credentials
- Our typical pregnant patient and their birth plan
- Physiology of birth
- Cardinal movements of labor
    - Engagement, descent, flexion, internal rotation, extension, external rotation, expulsion
    - Cranial molding and the common cranial malpresentations due to position in uterus and abnormal positions in utero
- Primitive reflexes and their purpose for birth
    - Fetal malpresentation and the potential for subluxation in utero
    - Subluxation and the effects on neurological development and reflex integration
- Causes of Dystocia
    - Williams Obstetrics: power, passage, passenger

Hour 2

- Birth interventions and the impact on reflexes and breastfeeding
    - IV Fluids in labor inflate baby and make the breast more taught
    - Baby's weight loss with IV fluids - what is normal and what is too much
    - Pitocin reduces baby's suck reflex
    - Epidural reduces baby's neurobehavior scores
    - C-section can delay milk coming in for up to 10 days
- The breast crawl
    - Latch within the first hour increases milk supply for the entire breastfeeding journey
    - How assisted/instrumentation/surgical labor affects breastfeeding and attachment
- Webster Chiropractic Care
    - How specific Webster care improves neurological function
    - Care from a salutogenic model to create a family practice

Hour 3

- How to identify subluxation in the infant

    - Age specific examination and case evaluation
        - Assess milestones, tone, ROM, orthos, reflexes, eye exam, suck/latch, plagiocephaly/brachycephaly, subluxation
        - Case example, evaluation, outcomes
        - Demo of infant exams
- Brain development and retained primitive reflexes
    - Cardinal movements of labor and activation of primitive reflexes
    - Identify the reflexes involved in the birth process
    - Identify which reflexes are involved with learning, behavior and emotional regulation later in childhood
- Attachment parenting
    - Benefits of birth bonding, skin to skin, babywearing, bedsharing, responding to baby's needs
    - Alternatives for surrogate, adoption, NICU, interruptions in birth, emergencies
    - Swaddling, containers and other practices that interfere with breastfeeding and reflex integration

Hour 4

- Neurology of breastfeeding
    - Superficial breast tissue supplied by intercostal nerves
    - Five cranial nerves supply innervation to the tongue
    - Review of normal tongue ranges of motion and function
- The breast as a feedback loop
    - The nipple works as a valve to pick up baby's saliva and create the contents of milk on demand
- "Ideal latch"
    - Signs of a good latch
    - Cranial and palate structural malpresentations for latch
- Ties and other oral restrictions
    - How to assess for ties, Hazelbaker Assessment Tool for function of tongue
- Cranial and Adjusting for breastfeeding
    - Key indicators for cranial work
    - Oral palate assessment
- Creating safe space for families
    - How to communicate and listen to what they are going through
    - Create a connection for them to feel safe, connect with baby before assessment

- How to start a breastfeeding support group, baby brain building workshops and other outreach activities to build community