Training Trunk Control: Is a Segmental Approach Right for You?

Description:
This session will address the evaluation and treatment of trunk control in children with moderate to severe disability. Our segmental approach to postural control will be compared to current global methods of promoting upright function. We will use open and closed kinetic chain theory to explain common compensatory strategies observed in children with cerebral palsy during functional tasks. Combining open and closed chain theory with the Segmental Assessment of Trunk Control (SATCo) will allow participants to explore clinically relevant options for treatment across practice settings and across diagnoses that affect postural control of the trunk.

Objectives:
1. Differentiate a segmental approach from a global approach for assessment and treatment of postural control.
2. Identify the clinical implications of the Segmental Assessment of Trunk Control as it relates to a segmental approach.
3. Use the concepts of open and closed kinetic chains to discriminate between adequate and inadequate segmental support for function.
4. Recognize the impact of a segmental approach on participation and function.
5. Apply the concepts of the segmental approach to trunk control in their clinical setting.

Key References:

Speaker:
Sandra Saavedra, Assistant Professor at University of Hartford, is a pediatric researcher with 22 years clinical experience. Dr. Saavedra received her MS in Physical Therapy from University of Southern California, her PhD in Human Physiology from University of Oregon and completed postdoctoral research at University of Michigan. Her cerebral palsy research team will present the concepts behind her NIH funded studies that explore a segmental approach to understanding how trunk control develops in typical infants and how it is constrained in children with moderate-to-severe motor impairment. In conjunction with Danielle Bellows, the team will translate these concepts for clinical application.