MNRI® Dynamic & Postural Reflex Integration

Course Overview:
The Dynamic & Postural Reflex Integration course provides the foundation for professionals and parents to understand the importance of primary motor reflex pattern maturation, why a reflex might not be integrated, the impact a non-integrated reflex can have, and the MNRI techniques designed to assess and integrate reflexes. Primary motor reflex patterns emerge along a predictable developmental continuum, with each successive reflex emerging to secure a child’s survival and protection as his system matures and advances. When adequately engaged, each reflex anchors neurologically more deeply a physiological, emotional and psychological sense of security, freeing an infant to focus on exploring, learning, and fully advancing through all stages of primary motor reflex maturation. It is through this complete integration process that primary motor reflex patterns form the foundation for related motor reflex schemes (sitting up, crawling, walking, etc) to mature and for each of us to reach our full potential over time, anchoring emotional and behavioral regulation, and advancing motor, communication, and cognitive learning. Congenital disorders or traumatic events that occur in utero, at birth, or anytime after birth can interrupt the activation, maturation and integration of a primary motor reflex pattern. Depending upon the number of reflexes impacted and the maturational deficits of each impacted reflex, a broad spectrum of life challenges can occur.

The MNRI Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration course explores:
• The general MNRI Method and the role played by the Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration Program
• The progression primary motor reflex patterns beginning in utero and continuing through life
• The role primary infant reflex patterns play in establishing subsequent related motor reflex schemes and the development of advanced motor, communication and cognitive abilities and emotional and behavioral regulation
• MNRI techniques to assess, pattern and integrate primary motor reflex patterns
• How to create MNRI primary motor reflex integration programs for individual clients
• How to incorporate use of MNRI Dynamic and Postural Integration course content into daily client and home practice

Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this four-day, 32-hour Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration course, participants:
1. Learn about the Masgutova Neurosensorimotor Reflex Integration SM (MNRI) Method
   a. Its scientific origins
   b. The role of a reflex and its sensory, motor and central nervous system mechanisms
   c. Primary motor reflex patterns, the subordinate role each plays in the maturation of more complex related motor reflex schemes (sitting-up, crawling, etc), the development of learned motor, communication and cognitive abilities and in achieving potential across an individual’s lifespan
   d. The impact of:
      • Trauma on primary motor reflex patterns, the protective role immature reflexes play, and the negative impact protection can have on an individual’s ability to self-regulate, learn, develop and grow.
      • Stress and negative learning experiences on the integration of reflexes necessary for reading, writing, eating, core stabilization, visual/motor integration, speech/language development and auditory processing.

2. Learn, classify and explore (through in class demonstration) the body’s motor coordination systems, the corresponding brain level responsible for managing each system, and the implications for reflex integration.

3. Learn the importance of primary motor reflex patterns and identify, define and classify each pattern
   a. Based on the research of Pavlov (1927), Simonove (1987), Kornorsky (1970) and Vygotsky (theory of Cognitive Development as reprinted in 1978)
   b. Compare and contrast dynamic and postural motor reflex patterns found in the coronal, sagital and axial body plane coordination systems
   c. Analyze the reflex integration:
      • Process
         Reflex circuit => Reflex actions => Basic pattern => Variant patterns => Intentional movement => Skill development => Motor planning
      • Links with facilitating and opposing reflexes
      • Connection to emotional and behavioral regulation and personality development
      • As the fundamental foundation for optimal motor, communication and cognitive learning and growth
4. Learn to implement MNRI assessment techniques to determine the integration state of each primary motor reflex pattern.
   a. Explore the norms of automatic motor development based on the assessment metrics presented in *Shirley’s Scales of Motion Development* (1986) and *Frankenburg and Doss’s Scale of Motion Habits* (1986).
   b. Learn, understand and identify:
      - The MNRI Method parameters important to determining the integration state of each reflex
      - The possible range of integration states for each primary motor reflex pattern including integrated (typical maturational pattern), dysfunctional (atypical, immature) and pathological (absence of any pattern or presentation incorrect or wrong pattern).
   c. Demonstrate through supervised hands-on-application the ability to conduct an MNRI assessment and adequately determine the state of each primary motor reflex pattern

5. Learn to implement the MNRI techniques to integrate each primary motor reflex pattern
   a. Learn through demonstration and hands-on-practice the MNRI techniques designed to activate and integrate primary motor reflex patterns
   b. Learn through course discussion and instructor demonstration how to deal with unique and challenging client situations using MNRI method techniques
   c. Demonstrate for course instructor the ability to appropriately apply integration procedures for each primary motor reflex pattern

6. Learn to use course knowledge to create and apply an individual MNRI program for clients with various challenges
   a. Use the MNRI pre-assessment techniques to identify dysfunctional primary motor reflex patterns
   b. Develop an individual MNRI program based on assessment results and targeted individual challenges
   c. Explore with client family the potential impact the individualized program can have on
      - Body structure, posture, and motor maturation
      - Motor, communication and cognitive learning abilities and emotional and behavioral regulation

7. Explore, evaluate, and develop strategies to incorporate the use of the MNRI Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration course content into daily client and home practice.

**Reflexes Addressed in this Course:**

*Primary Motor Reflex Patterns*
- Asymmetric Tonic Neck (ATNR)
- Babkin Palmomental
- Babinski
- Bauer Crawling
- Bonding
- Flying and Landing
- Hands Pulling

- Hands Supporting (Parachute)
- Landau
- Leg Cross Flexion
- Moro Embrace
- Pavlov Orientation
- Robinson Grasp

- Spinal Galant
- Spinal Pereze
- Symmetric Tonic Neck (STNR)
- Thomas Automatic Gait
- Tonic Labyrinthine
- Trunk Extension

*Additional Motor Reflexes and Reactions*
- Visual Convergence-Divergence
- Abdominal
- Eye Tracking

- Fear Paralysis

**Prerequisites:** No prerequisites required.

**Course Length:**
- *Standard Course* -- covers a period of four days and requires a minimum of 32 hours of direct classroom instruction to complete.
- Additional Options available upon special request:
  - *Introduction Course* -- 2 day/16 hour course
  - *Instructor’s Training Course* -- 5 day/40 hour course

**Curriculum Design:** The course curriculum consists of a combination of historical and theoretical lecture, case study slides and videos, technique demonstration and applied practice, and class discussion.

**Course Materials:** The Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration course manual, written by Svetlana Masgutova, Ph.D., is the primary source for content presented in class. Supplementary course content draws from a variety of articles and MNRI case studies, and is referenced as needed upon presentation in class. The course manual is included as part of the course fee and is distributed to course participants at initial course check-in.
Approved Continuing Education Course for: AOTA, ASHA