SMEI LLC P.O. Box 1651, Melrose, FL 32666

# MNRI® Facial Reflex Integration

**Introduction**:

Facial motor reflexes first appear in infancy and remain active throughout life, supporting a broad range of needs essential to:

- Human survival, including breathing, rooting, eating and general neurovascular function
- Accessing and managing visual, auditory, and other sensory system input
- Different coordination systems in different combinations – hand, mouth, ear, eye, tongue, neck, and cranial coordination systems
- Nonverbal (emotional expressions and cognitive activity) and verbal communication (articulation)

Facial reflexes not only affect function in the facial area, they also affect function though out the whole brain-body system. The MNRI Facial Reflex Integration Program techniques work to activate and engage reflex actions, movements and patterns necessary for the maturation of more complex motor reflexes and the development of advanced communication and cognition. The engagement and maturation of facial reflexes can be impeded by congenital issues or traumatic events that occur in utero, at birth, or anytime after birth. Depending on the number of facial reflexes and related primary motor reflex patterns impacted, a broad array of associated life challenges can appear. MNRI Facial Reflex program techniques have been used with great success for children experiencing various delays in communication development.

MNRI Oral-Facial Reflex Integration course explores:

- The general MNRI Method and the role played by the Facial Reflex Integration Program
- Oral-facial reflexes and how they relate to primary motor reflex patterns and important body systems
- The role oral-facial reflexes play in establishing a foundation for motor, communication and cognitive development, and emotional and behavioral regulation
- MNRI techniques to assess, pattern, and integrate oral-facial reflexes
- How to create an MNRI oral-facial reflex integration home program for individual clients
- How to incorporate MNRI Oral-Facial Reflex Integration course content into daily client and home practice

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the three-day, 24-hour Oral-Facial Integration course, participants:

1. Learn about the Masgutova Neurosensorimotor Reflex Integration SM (MNRI) Method
   a. The innate nature of the motor reflex system
   b. The role of a reflex and its sensory, motor, and central nervous system mechanisms
   c. When, why, and how the brain engages in protection versus learning and development
   d. The physiological and psychological basis for motor program strategies and developmental stages
   e. The maturational role of oral-facial reflexes within the primary motor reflex system and the impact of dysfunctional reflex patterns on daily life.
2. Learn the importance of oral-facial symmetry and the maturational progression of each oral-facial reflex
   a. Identify each reflex
   b. Understand and explain the impact integration of each oral-facial reflex can have on
      - Survival mechanisms including breathing, rooting, eating and general neuro-vascular function
      - Managing sensory input
      - Postural control and hand, mouth, ear, eye, tongue, neck and cranial coordination systems
      - Nonverbal (emotional and cognitive expressions) and verbal communication (articulation and speech)
      - Related primary motor reflex patterns
   c. Explore how oral-facial reflexes provide protection and support for the development of higher skills, developing brain and maturing body systems
3. Learn to implement MNRI assessment techniques to determine the integration state (i.e. integrated, dysfunctional or pathological) of each oral-facial reflex
   a. Demonstrate through supervised hands-on-application the ability to conduct an MNRI assessment and adequately determine the state of each oral-facial reflex

4. Learn to implement the MNRI techniques to integrate each oral-facial reflex
   a. Learn through demonstration and hands-on-practice the MNRI techniques designed to activate and integrate oral-facial reflexes, and to address oral-facial symmetry issues

   b. Learn through course discussion and instructor demonstration how to deal with unique and challenging client situations using MNRI method techniques
   c. Demonstrate for the course instructor the ability to apply integration procedures for each oral-facial reflex

5. 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 oral-facial reflexes
   b. Develop an MNRI program for clients 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 reflex maturation
      - Motor, communication and cognitive learning abilities and emotional and behavioral regulation

6. Explore, evaluate and develop strategies to incorporate the use of the MNRI Oral-Facial 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
- Tonic Labyrinthine
- Pavlov Orientation
- Symmetric Tonic Neck (STNR)

*Additional Oral-Facial Reflexes*

Mouth-Food

- Biting
- Chewing
- Gag reflex
- Mouth Closing/Opening reaction
- Nourishing
- Puckering
- Rooting/Oral Searching
- Swallowing
- Sucking
- Teeth Clenching
- Yawning (shallow & deep)

Breathing

- Breathing – Inhale/Exhale cycle

Head Righting & TMJ Position Regulation

- Head Righting – Ocular & Labyrinthine
- TMJ/Vestibular Leveling

Visual Reflexes

- Convergence/Divergence
- Corneal/Eye Blinking
- Eye Freezing
- Eye Leveling
- Eye Tracking
- Pupillary/Accomodation
- STNR for Binocular Vision

Auditory Reflexes

- Acoustic Reflex
- Binaural Hearing & Auditory Processing
- Primary Sound Articulation

Primary Motor Coordination & Cognitive Systems

- Mouth-Hand, Hand-Mouth
- Mouth-Eyes-Ears-Hands
- Pavlov Orientation
- Oral Orientation

**Prerequisites:** No prerequisites required; however, Masgutova recommends attending the Dynamic & Postural Reflex Integration course first, whenever possible, to help provide broader context prior to attending other foundation courses.

**Course Length:** The course covers a period of three days and requires a minimum of 24 hours of direct classroom instruction to complete.

**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 Oral-Facial 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