



Special Therapies Institute

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PEDIATRIC BODYWORK WORKSHOP

Course Description

The **Vaughan Approach to Pediatric Bodywork** is a 3-day, in-person clinical application course led by Susan Vaughan Kratz, OT, CST-D. The curriculum draws from her foundational books, *Bodywork for Sensory Integration* and *Bodywork for Babies*. While focusing on neonatal and pediatric care, the techniques are applicable to all patient populations.

This course advances the practitioner's manual skill, bridging existing gaps in learning pediatric manual therapy methods of craniosacral therapy, visceral maneuvers, myofascial expansion, and lymphatic mobilization. Embracing the emerging science of whole-body fascia, participants will learn to interact with delicate connective tissues to address common neonatal and infant issues and improve sensory wellness in children and across the lifespan. The Vaughan Approach defends the Kratz's hypothesis that fascia is the organ of the autonomic nervous systems. This approach serves as preparatory intervention to assist function.

Key Highlights:

- **Target Audience:** Professional pediatric professionals licensed to practice "therapeutic touch."
- **Skill Level:** Designed for intermediate clinical experience; no prior manual therapy training required.
- **Immediate Application:** Leave with practical skills to put immediately into practice, addressing such issues as breastfeeding and feeding difficulties, tongue tie management, torticollis and plagiocephaly, colic and digestive unease, self-regulation, sensory regulation, structural challenges, and more.
- **Expert Instruction:** Benefit from practice-informed evidence and observations of forty years of clinical wisdom working one powerful modality of working with immature fascia structures.

Note: Participants should be comfortable with palpation and locating organs and bony landmarks, coming to the course to work on adult class members. Experiencing the work personally prior to the course is highly recommended.