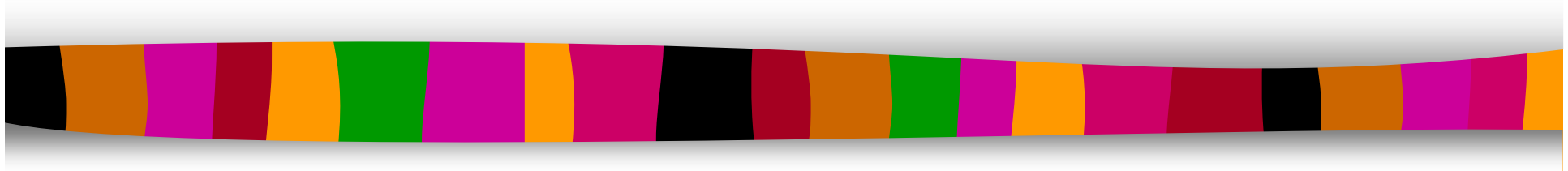




Massage for Children with Special Needs



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Introduction



- Examine the importance of understanding the medical condition
- Explore the emotional effects:
 - On the family
 - The infant massage teacher
- Explore how massage can be adapted for some specific conditions



Do You Understand the Terms Used?



■ Eg. Erb's Palsy



- Also known as Brachial Plexus Paralysis is a condition which mainly due to **birth trauma**, can affect 1 or all of the 5 primary nerves that supply the movement and feeling to an arm.

(www.erbspalsygroup.co.uk)

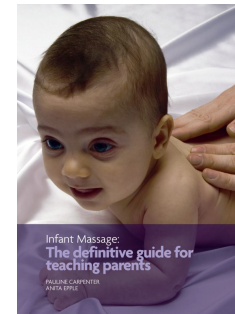
Understanding the Condition



- Do you need medical consent
- How do you find out?
 - Ask the parent
 - Google search
 - Research websites
Eg. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed
 - Is there a society
 - Eg. Erb's Palsy: www.erbspalsygroup.co.uk
 - Downs Syndrome: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk
 - Books
 - Parents of Premature Babies: Their Emotional World
Ed. Norma Tracy
 - Definitive Guide to infant massage
P. Carpenter & A. Epple
 - The Inner Live of Infants with Special Needs
Ed V. Varma

PARENTS
OF
PREMATURE
INFANTS
THEIR EMOTIONAL WORLD

EDITED BY NORMA TRACEY



THE INNER
LIFE OF
CHILDREN
WITH
SPECIAL
NEEDS

EDITED BY VED VARMA

How Does the Condition Affect the Baby?



■ Down's Syndrome

- 'Floppy baby'
- May have cardiac condition
- May suffer from reflux



How Does the Condition Affect the Parent?



■ Emotional

- My baby is different
- My baby 'looks' different
- My baby doesn't respond like other babies
- Bonding
- Angry – could the condition have been avoided:
 - Premature birth
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Erb's Palsy

■ Physiological

- May be suffering from post-natal depression
- May be struggling with lactation



How Does the Condition Affect the You?



- Its your responsibility to:
 - Support and empower parents
 - Support and enhance respectful communication
 - Non-judgmental
 - All inclusive



How Does the Condition Affect the Massage



- Cues – maybe very subtle
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Do you need to adopt a different position
 - Umbilical hernia
 - Reflux
- Group v 1:1
- Music
- Lighting





Where to From Here?

- Know who to contact
 - Course provider
 - GICM
- Learn how to search the web
- Take a specialised course
 - Ensure GICM accredited
 - EG. Massage for babies with special needs
Touch-Learn International Ltd

Conclusion



- Examined the importance of having an understanding of the medical condition
- Explored the emotional effects:
 - On the family
 - The infant massage teacher
- Explored how massage can be adapted for some specific conditions



Useful Reading

- **Carpenter P & Epple A.** 2009 *Infant Massage: The Definitive Guide for Teaching Parents* Ditto International England
- **Epple A** 2011 *Infant Massage for Children with Disabilities/Special Needs* Practical Midwife. 2011 Feb;14(2):30-32.
- **Tracy N (Ed)** 2000 *Parents of Premature Infants: Their Emotional World* Whurr Publishers England
- **Varma VP (Ed)** 1999 *The Inner Life of Children with Special Needs* Whurr Publishers England