

Note: Please see the full reference list of the article, Schlome, D., Krüger, E., & Pillay, B. (2025). A qualitative inquiry of speech-language therapists' views about breastfeeding management. *South African Journal of Communication Disorders*, 72(1), a1070. <https://doi.org/10.4102/sajcd.v72i1.1070>, for more information.

Online Appendix 1

BREASTFEEDING MANAGEMENT BY SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

The aim of this research study is to describe SLTs' experiences regarding breastfeeding management in South Africa. This semi-structured interview is being conducted as part of a research study at the University of Pretoria. The interview should take approximately 45 minutes. Participation is voluntary and participants may choose to discontinue at any time.

SECTION A: Demographic Information

1. **Number of years of experience:**
 - < 5 years ● 0-5 years
 - 6-10 years ● > 10 years
1. **Undergraduate qualification obtained from:**
 - Sefako Makgato Health Sciences University
 - Stellenbosch University
 - University of Cape Town
 - University of KwaZulu Natal
 - University of Pretoria
 - University of the Witwatersrand
1. **Highest level of qualification:**
 - Undergraduate degree
 - Masters degree ● Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
1. **Additional training:**
 - South African Certified Lactation Consultant (SACLC)
 - International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)
 - Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
 - Neuro-developmental Therapy (NDT) training courses (basic and/or advanced)
 - Additional breastfeeding-related CPD events/seminars
 - No additional training
 - Other: _____
1. **Main interest in the field of speech-language therapy:**
 - Paediatric swallowing and feeding and dysphagia management
 - Breastfeeding management
 - Adult swallowing and feeding and dysphagia management
 - Paediatric speech, language and fluency disorders
 - Adult neurogenic speech and language disorders
1. **Current work context:**
 - District/regional hospital
 - Tertiary/academic hospital
 - Community health care clinic
 - Private hospital
 - Home visits
 - Schools
 - Private practice
 - University
 - Unemployed

SECTION B: Clinical Experience with Breastfeeding Management

The questions below will be used to gain information regarding qualified speech-language therapists' experiences about breastfeeding management in South Africa.

1. Can you please comment on how frequently you encounter patients with breastfeeding difficulties in your paediatric work context?
(**Probes:** Daily, weekly, monthly)
1. As a speech-language therapist, do you consider breastfeeding management to be an important role and what do you perceive this role includes regarding the management of cases involving breastfeeding difficulties?
(**Probe:** If so, why?)
1. Can you please tell me about what kind of breastfeeding difficulties you commonly encounter?
(**Probes:** Latch, suck, positioning, weight gain, complex medical issues)
1. How competent do you feel about assessing infants and their mothers who have breastfeeding difficulty?
1. What do you base this competence on?

(**Probe:** Training or experience?)

1. Can you tell me where you learnt most about breastfeeding management?

(**Probe:** Undergraduate degree? Which courses or trainings have you completed? **Follow-up:** which of these trainings would you recommend to new graduates?)

1. Can you please comment on what exposure you had to breastfeeding management on an undergraduate level at university?

1. Can you comment on the tools and procedures you make use of when conducting breastfeeding assessments?

1. Can you elaborate on the areas of swallowing and feeding that you would focus on in terms of management?

(**Probes:** Assessment areas? Treatment areas?)

1. Which areas of intervention do you feel the most competent in treating? Probe: Why?

1. Can you please comment on any aspects in breastfeeding that you do not feel confident to treat?

1. Can you elaborate on the collaboration that you are currently involved in when treating infants and families requiring breastfeeding support?

(**Probe:** Which professionals have you collaborated with previously?)

1. Can you explain what you perceive to be the difference between the speech-language therapist and the lactation consultant in breastfeeding management?

1. Do you think it is important for speech-language therapists working in breastfeeding management to complete training as lactation consultants?

1. Do you have any recommendations regarding improving clinical competence of speech-language therapists regarding breastfeeding management?

References

Blake, A. N. (2014). *Breastfeeding knowledge and clinical management among speech-language pathologist*. University of North Carolina.

Eksteen, A. M., De Witt, Z., Krüger, A. M., Stander, L. K., & Swart, A. C. (2020). South African Speech-Language Therapists' perspectives on their role in breastfeeding management. *Unpublished undergraduate research report*. <https://doi.org/10.31826/jlr-2014-110101>