

# BIRTH:

## A Significant Developmental Event

### Description

This course includes information about the importance of the perinatal time in overall development. Expanding the case history to include more details of the birth experience can help enhance an understanding on the case and guide the care necessary.

### Objectives

The attendee will gain a framework for expanding the patient history to include birth history and understand its relevance to Developmental Optometric care.



### Summary

The experience of child birth is significant for babies and families. The circumstances surrounding the birth of a child are important to understanding their potential need for developmental, behavioral or sensory based therapeutic intervention. People who have experienced trauma around the time of birth can struggle with the impacts of the experience, suffering symptoms consistent with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Being aware of these experiences can help guide the recommendations provided by the Developmental Optometrist.



## References and Resources

**Born in the USA: How a Broken Maternity System Must Be Fixed to Put Women and Children First**, Marsden Wagner

**The Secret Life of the Unborn Child**, Thomas Verny

**Welcoming Consciousness: Supporting Babies' Wholeness From the Beginning of Life**, Wendy Anne McCarty

**The Business of Baby: How Money, Science and Politics Drive the Commerce of Conception**, Debora Spar

**The Earliest Relationship: parents, infants and the drama of early attachment**, T. Berry Brazelton

**The Business of Baby: What Doctors Don't Tell You, What Corporations Try to Sell You, and How to Put Your Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Baby Before Their Bottom Line**, Jennifer Margulis

**Trauma through a child's eyes**, Peter Levine

### *Expand your questionnaire*

- Ease of becoming pregnant: Anxiety, depression and fear are common emotional states for people who have worked through infertility issues or in vitro procedures
- Feelings at the time of birth: feelings of fear, lack of control, and anxiety should be noted
- Birth experience: An emergency cesarean section presents a different exposure to a family than a calm, normal home birth

### *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Babies and Children*

- Hyper vigilance: always on guard
- Separation anxiety
- Exaggerated responses to lights, sounds, or minor injury
- Attention and behavioral concerns

### *Post Trauma Vision Syndrome*

- Convergence insufficiency
- Accommodative Insufficiency
- Oculomotor dysfunction
- Difficulty in crowded or noisy places

### *3 main take homes from this talk*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.