

Residency Activity: Oral Mechanism Evaluation

1. Icebreaker

Icebreaker Activity:

- Name one oral-facial structure involved in speech production and briefly state its function.
- Share one specific learning goal related to oral mechanism evaluation you want to achieve today.

2. Consent Form

Peer Exam Consent Form

I, the undersigned, voluntarily consent to participate in peer oral mechanism examinations as part of this training session. I understand the nature of the procedure and agree to maintain professionalism, confidentiality, and safety standards throughout.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

3. Session Goals & Expectations

- Master identification and functional assessment of oral-facial structures critical for speech, swallowing, and respiration, including:
 - Facial symmetry: muscles of facial expression (orbicularis oris, buccinator, zygomaticus major, risorius, mentalis)
 - Jaw function: temporomandibular joint (TMJ), masseter, temporalis muscles
 - Lips: orbicularis oris, mentalis
 - Tongue anatomy: intrinsic muscles (superior longitudinal, inferior longitudinal, transverse, vertical) and extrinsic muscles (genioglossus, styloglossus, hyoglossus, palatoglossus)
 - Diadochokinetic (DDK) tasks: assess oral motor coordination (/pa/, /ta/, /ka/)

- Conduct a thorough **cranial nerve exam** relevant to oral motor function, including:
 - CN V (Trigeminal): jaw motor + facial sensation
 - CN VII (Facial): facial muscles + anterior 2/3 tongue taste
 - CN IX (Glossopharyngeal): gag reflex + posterior 1/3 tongue taste
 - CN X (Vagus): phonation, palate elevation, gag reflex
 - CN XI (Accessory): head turn and shoulder shrug strength
 - CN XII (Hypoglossal): tongue movement + strength

- Apply infection control and hygiene best practices (glove use, hand sanitizing).
- Develop rapport and communication skills for effective patient interaction.
- Document findings with clinical precision following standard protocols.

4. Oral Mechanism Evaluation Checklist

Structure / Function	Observations (✓ / X)	Notes / Clinical Comments
Facial Symmetry		Look for asymmetry, drooping, involuntary movements.
- Muscles of facial expression (orbicularis oris, zygomaticus major, risorius, mentalis)		
Jaw Function		Evaluate range of motion, strength, TMJ tenderness.
- Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) mobility		
- Masseter and temporalis muscle strength		
Lips		Assess shape, tone, strength, ability to pucker and smile.
- Orbicularis oris		
- Mentalis		
Tongue		Observe size, symmetry, color, fasciculations, mobility.
- Intrinsic muscles: superior/inferior longitudinal, transverse, vertical		
- Extrinsic muscles: genioglossus, styloglossus, hyoglossus, palatoglossus		
Diadochokinetic (DDK) Rates		Assess rapid alternating movements (/pa/, /ta/, /ka/).
Oral Sensation (if applicable)		Note response to tactile stimulation on lips, tongue, cheeks.
Hygiene & Infection Control		Proper glove use, hand sanitation, clean instruments.
Communication & Instruction Clarity		Patient-friendly language, clear step-by-step directions.
Documentation		Complete, legible, and accurate recording of findings.

5. Cranial Nerve Examination Checklist

Cranial Nerve	Function Tested	Assessment Method	Observations (✓ / X)	Observations/Notes
CN V - Trigeminal	Jaw motor & facial sensation	Jaw clench/open; light touch on forehead, cheeks, jaw		Check for symmetry, strength, sensation
CN VII - Facial	Facial expression, anterior 2/3 tongue taste	Smile, frown, puff cheeks; taste test (optional)		Note symmetry, strength, taste accuracy
CN IX - Glossopharyngeal	Gag reflex, posterior 1/3 tongue taste	Gag reflex elicitation; taste test (optional)		Observe symmetry and reflex strength
CN X - Vagus	Phonation, palate elevation, gag reflex	Sustain vowel sounds; say "ah"; observe uvula movement		Note voice quality, palate symmetry
CN XI - Accessory	Shoulder shrug, head rotation	Shoulder shrug, head turn against resistance		Assess muscle strength and symmetry
CN XII - Hypoglossal	Tongue movement and strength	Protrude, retract, lateralize tongue		Check for symmetry, fasciculations

6. Midpoint Skill Check Rubric

Criteria	Exceeds (3)	Meets (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Comments
Structure Identification	Correctly identifies all key oral-facial structures with precision	Identifies most structures accurately with minor errors	Misses or misidentifies several key structures	
Hygiene Protocol Adherence	Consistently follows all hygiene procedures (gloves, sanitizing)	Minor lapses, but overall maintains hygiene	Frequently neglects hygiene steps	
Verbal Instruction Clarity	Provides clear, concise, and patient-friendly directions	Generally clear, some occasional ambiguity	Instructions unclear or confusing	

7. Confidence & Clarity Poll

Please respond honestly to the following:

- Rate your confidence level in performing a comprehensive oral mechanism evaluation:
(1 = Not confident at all; 5 = Highly confident)
1 2 3 4 5

- Which specific evaluation step(s) do you find most challenging or unclear? (Check all that apply)
 - Facial symmetry assessment
 - Jaw mobility evaluation
 - Lip structure and function assessment
 - Tongue anatomy and mobility testing
 - Diadochokinetic rate assessment
 - Cranial nerve examination
 - Infection control procedures
 - Patient instruction clarity
 - Documentation

Comments:

8. Self-Review Worksheet

Reflect on your peer practice and skill check results:

- Technical strengths demonstrated:
- Areas needing improvement (e.g., anatomy recognition, hygiene, instruction):
- How might you adjust your technique or communication to improve?
- Questions for instructor feedback:

9. Peer Feedback Form

Use these prompts to guide your feedback after hands-on practice:

- One strength I observed in your evaluation technique was:
- One area where I think you could improve is:
- Suggestions or tips for improvement:

10. Session Wrap-Up & Reflection

- What key oral mechanism evaluation skill(s) will you focus on developing next?
- What questions remain about anatomy, technique, or clinical application?
- How will you apply today's learning to future clinical practice?