

## IAOM Position Statement

### Position Statement: Tongue thrust

International Association of Oral Myology

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## **Position statement issued by Board of Directors**

The International Association of Oral Myology respectfully addresses, and responds to, the Position Statement on Tongue Thrust prepared by the Joint Committee on Dentistry and Speech Pathology-Audiology and adopted by the American Speech and Hearing Association, November 1974.

It is the documented position of the International Association of Oral Myology that measurable and persuasive scientific research and clinical studies are available which validate use of the term Tongue Thrust. Accordingly, this Association recognizes Tongue Thrust to be an abnormal utilization of the oral-facial musculature during the act of deglutition which directly relates to dental malocclusion and/or speech. Such abnormality may become definitely identifiable after the early stages of mixed dentition. Further, this abnormal pattern of deglutition can and has been permanently altered through Oral Myofunctional therapy by trained Oral Myologists.

The International Association of Oral Myology agrees that a Speech Pathologist per se should not perform Tongue Thrust therapy, and submits that such therapy should be performed only if the Speech Pathologist is also a Certified Oral Myologist.

A Certified Oral Myologist, as recognized by the International Association of Oral Myology is one who has:

- (1) completed an undergraduate degree in an appropriate field of study,
- (2) completed an approved course of training in Oral Myology,
- (3) passed written and practical examinations prepared by the Committee on Certification of the Association, and
- (4) assumed the ethical responsibilities designated by the Code of Ethics of the Association.

In the developing field of Oral Myology, the purposes of the International Association of Oral Myology are: to foster scientific research at acceptable universities and research centers; to provide training in Oral Myology at the college/university level; to establish meaningful intercourse with related fields; and to continually upgrade the standards and qualifications of those engaged in remediation of Oral Myofunctional disorders.