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Development of sucking patterns in preterm infants

da Costa, Saakje Petronella

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Curriculum vitae

Saakje P. da Costa (1952, Amsterdam) obtained a secondary school certificate (hbs-b) in 1969 at Streekllyceum Buitenveldert, Amsterdam and went to Groningen to study Logopaedics. After completing her studies in 1973, she worked as a speech therapist at Kinderrevalidatiecentrum Lyndensteyn in Beetsterzwaag until 1980. During that time she followed a course on Neuro-Developmental Treatment (NDT) for children. In 1978, she went to Zürich with a colleague and obtained a teaching qualification in Neuro-Developmental Treatment (NDT) from Helen Müller, the Swiss NDT speech therapist. Together with her colleague Clairette van der Weerd, she set up a NDT (pre)logopaedics course at Kinderrevalidatiecentrum Lyndensteyn. They were the first speech therapists outside Switzerland to do so. Saakje was Senior NDT Speech Instructor on the NDT children's course in Groningen until 2007. From 1980 to the present she has been working as a speech therapist at Kinderpraktijk Groningen, treating young children with swallowing and feeding problems, who often have prematurity in their anamnesis. From 1986 she has been teaching Logopaedics at Hanze University, School of Health, Groningen. In 1987, she obtained a qualification from Rijksuniversiteit Limburg, Maastricht to teach students. In 2005, she started her doctoral research on the development of sucking patterns in preterm infants at the Research and Innovation Group in Health Care and Nursing, Hanze University, Applied Sciences, Groningen.

Saakje da Costa has two daughters, Sarai (Boelema), who assisted with the research for this doctoral thesis, and Rivka.

