

What You Need to Know About Feeding Services

How do you know if your child has a feeding problem?

- Does your child demonstrate difficulty maintaining or gaining weight?
- Does your child take longer than 30 minutes to breast or bottle feed?
- Does your child cough, choke, or gag while eating/drinking?
- Does your child dislike eating?
- Does your child refuse to eat age-appropriate foods?
- Does your child have difficulty smelling, touching or eating certain foods?
- Is mealtime a struggle?

What is feeding therapy?

Feeding therapy helps children with a wide array of feeding difficulties which may include eating too little, difficulties with chewing and swallowing, refusing food, eating only a limited variety of foods, or delayed feeding development. Addressing feeding problems may prevent or eliminate nutritional and growth concerns, unsafe swallowing which may lead to aspiration pneumonia, poor eating habits or mealtime struggles.

Our team of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and dietitians use a collaborative approach to assess a child's needs by looking at the whole child. In this way, our transdisciplinary team is able to customize treatment to achieve optimal care for each child and family.

Children's Therapy

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Benefits of feeding therapy

Therapists work closely with caregivers to determine each child's current level of feeding development and then develop an individualized feeding plan. Through positive and fun feeding experiences, therapists allow each child to improve their feeding skills in a safe and calm environment. Caregivers are encouraged to be active participants in sessions, as well to practice the therapeutic strategies at home.

Home enhancement

A home-enhancement program provides families with the skills to bring the success of therapy beyond the clinic and into daily life. The goal is to expand the family's ability to understand the eating process and provide strategies to achieve successful mealtimes at home.

