

What is a Feeding Disorder?



A pediatric feeding disorder refers to a condition in which an infant or child is unable to eat and drink enough nutrients to promote growth, is unable to progress to eating a variety of table foods and textures or, does not eat by mouth at all. It is estimated that up to 50% of all children with developmental delays experience some feeding difficulties. Your child may have had limited experience with eating, have difficulty eating, or may simply refuse to eat.

What causes a Feeding Disorder?



Feeding and swallowing problems are most often associated with complex medical diagnoses (for example prematurity, Reflux/GERD), anatomical or structural abnormalities (e.g. congenital diaphragmatic hernia), allergies, sensory aversion or oral-motor dysfunction . Early or delayed introduction of solid foods as well as a child's food refusal can cause anxiety during meals and impacts all interaction between a child and her care givers.

How to address Feeding Disorders?

A full evaluation of a child's oral-motor skills, tolerance to different sensations in and around the mouth, the environment and feeding dynamic creates the baseline to plan a successful

treatment to improve your child's ability to eat. We consider eating and mealtime a "quality of life" issue, thus it should be a pleasant and successful experience for everyone involved. Once the evaluation is completed we will share with you an individually designed treatment plan to build foundational skills and manage possible behavioral concerns during eating and mealtimes.