



Introducing Coastal Pediatric Therapies' new Feeding Program...

Eat...Play...Grow!

Why choose Coastal Pediatric Therapies?

Our speech-language pathologists:

- Participated in specialized training in pediatric dysphagia directed by a feeding specialist from a top-rated hospital in Atlanta, GA
- Hold foundational understanding of typical feeding/swallowing development
- Conduct an in-depth evaluation to assess all aspects of a child's feeding difficulties
- Offer a family-centered approach to make mealtime a more pleasurable experience for the entire family unit
- Address sensory/behavioral feeding issues by decreasing aversions/resistance
- Offer parent/caregiver education and support on feeding pediatric difficulties



Who benefits from feeding therapy?

Assessment of feeding and swallowing disorders across the pediatric population will include but not be limited to:

- Infants • Toddlers • Older Children
- Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis

Premature Infants to Older Children including:

- Infants with congenital abnormalities (anatomical/structural defects, syndromes, etc.)
- Infants with a history of congenital heart disease
- Children with alternative feeding methods transitioning to (or back to) oral feeding
- Children with any aversions to oral intake
- Children with oral motor weakness



When to see a feeding therapist?

- Is the infant experiencing feeding difficulties?
- Is the child refusing to eat or refusing variety?
- Does the child have difficulty chewing?
- Is he/she coughing/gagging/choking during meals?
- Are you concerned about food selectivity, food group or texture refusal, mealtime tantrums, or reduced intake?

If you answered yes to any of the above, your infant/child may benefit from feeding therapy.

Infants/Newborns:

- Difficulty sustaining a nutritive sucking pattern
- Premature birth and having difficulty with oral feeding

Children of All Ages:

- Transitioning to oral feeding after a time of alternative feeding methods
- Strongly averse to certain food groups and struggling to find items he/she will eat
- Refusal creating a health or nutritional risk



What does a feeding therapy session look like?

The goal of feeding therapy is to help an infant/child develop normal, effective feeding patterns and behaviors. During feeding therapy sessions, therapists work with the child to enhance skills needed to make mealtime more enjoyable and nutritious.

The skills targeted are determined based on the child's individual needs and caregivers' input. The most common areas addressed include oral skills, acceptance of new foods, and improving positive eating experiences.



The therapist may ask you to bring preferred and/or non-preferred foods to a therapy session along with utensils/cups/etc. that are used in the natural environment.

**They Think It's Play...
We Know It's Work!**

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