

How Does The Feeding Team Assist My Child?

The Feeding Team helps families and caregivers manage feeding, swallowing, and nutritional problems in children with developmental disabilities. These problems include:

- Difficulty chewing, gagging, coughing or choking while eating
- Refusal to eat, and/or sensitivity to temperatures, tastes, or textures of different foods
- Growth and health concerns

Who Is On The Feeding Team?

The Feeding Team uses the skills and knowledge of:

- Developmental Pediatricians
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Dietitians
- Nurse Clinicians
- Social Workers

The team works closely with other BC Children's Hospital clinics and departments.



About Sunny Hill

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children is a provincial facility offering specialized services to children with disabilities, their families and communities throughout British Columbia. Using a family-centred approach, Sunny Hill helps promote the healthy development of children and youth by supporting families and community service providers in their efforts. It is also a resource for educational services and information about disabilities. Services are delivered close to home in a child's community, or on site at Sunny Hill, located in Vancouver.

How To Contact Us

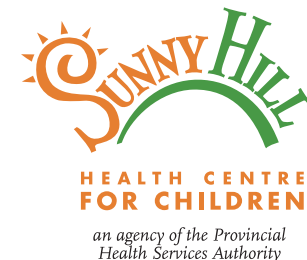
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Promoting Better Health for Children with Disabilities through Clinical Services, Education and Research



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What Is A Feeding Assessment?

A feeding assessment may involve one or a combination of any of the following:

- an oral motor assessment
- nutritional evaluation
- medical evaluation
- nursing evaluation
- feeding study

What Is An Oral Motor Assessment?

An oral motor assessment is done to see if your child's feeding problems are related to his or her ability to move their lips, tongue, and jaw when eating or drinking. An Occupational Therapist (OT) and a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) will complete this assessment.

What Are Nutritional, Medical, And Nursing Evaluations?

These assessments are carried out to determine the state of your child's nutrition, growth, and health. The Dietitian will review with you the food intake records that you receive and fill out before the evaluation. Your child's height and weight will be measured. The Developmental Pediatrician will go over your child's health history with specific emphasis on any feeding concerns, while the Clinical Nurse will complete a nursing evaluation.



For children with feeding tubes, the tube feeding site and schedule will be reviewed with the Dietician and Nurse Clinician.

What Is A Feeding Study?

A feeding study is a special moving x-ray that shows what happens to foods and liquids in your child's mouth and throat when they are swallowing. It is also known as a Videofluoroscopy or Modified Barium Swallow (MBS). You will be asked to bring foods and liquids for your child that will be mixed with a chalky substance called barium. Barium allows the therapists and radiologists to see the food and liquid as your child is swallowing. This study is an x-ray but every effort is made to use the lowest required dose to help us gather information to help your child.

What Happens During A Feeding Study?

The feeding study is done in the Radiology Department at BC Children's Hospital. Parents and caregivers stay with the child during the study. A radiologist, OT, and SLP work together with you and your child. The OT helps your child sit in a special chair, where your child will be videotaped while eating. The therapists may change your child's position or alter the texture of the food and liquids to see if swallowing improves.



What Happens After The Assessments Are Completed?

After all of your child's assessments have been completed, a team meeting is held with you, your child, any community professionals you would like to invite, and the Sunny Hill professionals who have worked with your child. Information from the assessments is reviewed, and recommendations are discussed. Further review or telephone follow-up, if needed, may be arranged.

Can You Tell Me About Tube Feeding?

Some children with complex feeding difficulties may require a feeding tube to help them meet their nutritional needs. The Feeding Team provides training and support in tube feed set-up to families, caregivers and community teams.

What Happens After We Go Home?

A final report will be sent to you after your visit to Sunny Hill. Community professionals will provide primary support to you and your child. The Feeding Team is available as a resource to your family and your community team.

