

Preparing for a Feeding Evaluation

First, you will need a referral from your doctor in order for us to perform the feeding evaluation. After the doctor writes a prescription:

- Call our Aiken office at **(803)-642-0700** or our Lexington office at **(803)-356-4782** to schedule a feeding evaluation.
- Your child's evaluation will last approximately one hour.

What do I need to do before my child's feeding evaluation?

- It may be a good idea to arrange childcare for your other children so you can participate in the evaluation with your child without any distractions.
- Complete the patient intake form which can be found in the top right hand corner of our website or on the resources page of our website.
 - Please answer all questions as thoroughly as you possibly can.
 - If you do not know the answer to a question you can speak with your speech therapist and they will help you to answer them.
 - Bring this form with you to the evaluation.
 - List any other concerns you have with your child and please bring them up to your speech therapist so they can be properly addressed.
- Complete a 3 day-diet diary for you child.
 - Write down the time of day, type of food, amount of food consumed, and how long the feeding took.
 - This will help our therapists get a better idea of your child's typical daily routine and will assist them in creating the optimal plan-of-care.
- Bring these items with you to the evaluation
 - Any bottles, cups, spoons, etc. that your child recognizes and uses on a consistent basis.
 - Any formula they are consuming, even if it is just for tube feedings.
 - One or two types of food that your child does like to eat and one or two types that your child does not like to eat (or a list of these foods)
 - Any previous or relevant medical reports that may be relevant to your child's feeding evaluation.

What will my child's evaluation include?

- We will speak with you and your child about their medical history and specific feeding problems to help determine the best course of treatment.
- We will observe your child's eating and drinking. Be sure he/she is hungry enough to eat several bites of various foods. He/she will also have a few different liquids from various cups/bottles. Your child will not necessarily eat a full meal at the evaluation.
- After the evaluation, we will discuss our findings, make recommendations and develop a plan of care.

Our therapists will thoroughly address your child's needs. As a result, a follow-up appointment may be necessary. We will answer all additional questions you have and create a personalized plan-of-care for your child. Our therapist will recommend a frequency and duration for your child's therapy. Authorization may be needed from your insurance provider to schedule subsequent visits.

If you have additional questions, call the clinic in which your child will be evaluated and we will be happy to answer any of your concerns.