



Contact us

East Tennessee Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Center

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For more information visit,
www.etch.com/rehabilitation

Comments from families

"In just two weeks, my daughter made some major changes. We are so thankful for the chance to participate in this intensive program. I still get a little teary eyed when I hear my little girl crunching on food."

"Our therapists provided us the skills to make it possible for our son to not only enjoy pleasure feeds but to no longer need his feeding tube."

"Thanks to feeding therapy my son now enjoys eating and no longer finds eating to be stressful . . . I really appreciate and love his feeding therapist. If it wasn't for feeding therapy, I don't know what we would have done."



Motivating mealtimes



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REHABILITATION SERVICES



What is it?

- Motivating mealtimes is an evaluation of children with feeding difficulties that aims to identify any areas of concern that may be impacting each child's ability to learn to eat.
- The program serves children with feeding difficulties and their families by offering a comprehensive approach to identify and treat the specific areas of difficulty that impact each child's ability to eat.
- The team uses a play-based and child-led approach that is focused on the child's development of the skills required for eating. We want children to learn how to eat and to have fun while doing it.

Who can benefit from an evaluation?

Children who exhibit one or more of the following:

- Difficulty eating a variety of food
- Difficulty eating textures or foods from each food group
- Refusal of entire categories of nutrition groups or food textures
- Dropping foods out of the child's diet that were previously preferred
- Eating different foods at mealtimes than the rest of the family
- Difficulty drinking from a cup and/or a bottle
- Limited ability to self-feed
- Difficulty chewing foods
- Difficulty swallowing foods (dysphagia)
- Sensory processing difficulties relating to feeding
- Dependence on supplemental tube feedings for nutrition
- Failure to thrive, slow weight gain, or weight loss
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Fear or anxiety related to foods or eating
- Frequent mealtime tantrums



Who is on the team?

- Speech-language pathologist (SLP)
- Occupational therapist (OT)
- Registered dietitian (RD)
- Pediatric psychologist
- Social worker



What does the evaluation involve?

- In-person interview with members of the feeding team
- Screening of your child's developmental skills
- Observation of your child during mealtime to assess multiple areas
- Expect the evaluation to last approximately 2 hours