



## Nursing vs. Therapy

Nursing care is often in place to administer and monitor nutrition/hydration as prescribed by the physician. Feeding/swallowing therapists use evidence-based practice for improving the motor-sensory skills and advancing intake to the least restrictive diet/food inventory.

**KidsCare Home Health uses comprehensive internal competencies, nationally recognized feeding/dysphagia programs.**

## Resources

**American Speech-Language Hearing Association**  
[ASHA.org/public/speech/swallowing](https://www.asha.org/public/speech/swallowing)

**The Pediatric Feeding Institute**  
[pediatricfeedinginstitute.com](https://www.pediatricfeedinginstitute.com)

## Definition:

### Feeding/Swallowing Therapy

Sensory-motor therapy to address problems with chewing, sucking, swallowing or food tolerance.

## Causes of Feeding and Swallowing Disorders:

- Brain-related injuries, like cerebral palsy or meningitis
- Reflux or other stomach problems
- Prematurity
- Cleft lip or palate
- Fatigue or breathing difficulties during mealtimes
- Autism spectrum disorder or sensory processing disorder
- Muscle weakness in the face and neck, including Down's Syndrome

## Therapists can perform evaluations and administer treatment for issues such as:

- Difficulty latching to breast or bottle
- Failure to transition to solid foods
- Gagging/vomiting during mealtimes
- Pocketing food in cheeks/overstuffing mouth
- Poor weight gain or growth
- Oral and/or pharyngeal dysphagia
- Aspiration or history of pneumonia
- Coughing or choking episodes with solids or liquids
- Reliance on tube feeding or supplements