



RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

**Children's
Specialized
Hospital**



Intensive Feeding Program

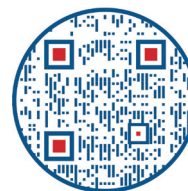
Children's Specialized Hospital provides a variety of programs and services, including but not limited to:

- Autism Center of Excellence
- Brain Injury Center of Excellence
- Burn and Wound Care
- Chronic Pain and Functional Neurologic Disorders Center of Excellence
- Chronic Illness Management Program
- Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
- Early Intervention Program
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiatry
- Physical Therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Recreational and Child Life Therapy
- Severe Behavior Program
- Special Needs Primary Care
- Speech and Language Pathology
- Spinal Cord Rehabilitation



Referrals and Appointments

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit rwjbh.org/feedingdisorders or **scan the QR code.**



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rwjbh.org/csh
1-888-CHILDREN (244-5373)

A member of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

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About the Pediatric Feeding Program

We are proud to announce the expansion of our comprehensive feeding program. The Pediatric Feeding Program at Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) will continue to serve infants, children, and adolescents with moderate to severe feeding problems.

Our new program is for infants, children, and adolescents who have not made progress in outpatient feeding therapy at CSH or elsewhere. This program uses a goal-oriented and scientifically supported approach based on the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis (ABA). The child's treatment team will observe and measure child and caregiver behavior, and make data-based treatment decisions with the team and caregivers. This approach is highly successful as children in this program meet 90% or more of their treatment goals.

The child and family participate in a continuum of services. The day-treatment program helps caregivers make a big change in the child's feeding behavior. Once the day-treatment program ends, the child and family will transition to the outpatient follow up program or continue their path toward age or developmentally appropriate eating. Caregivers play a critical role as members of the treatment team. The program's success depends on caregiver participation.

You should contact the Pediatric Feeding Program if your child has had at least three months of outpatient feeding therapy and they:

- Don't eat many different foods
- Get most calories from tube feedings
- Have mealtime behavior that causes you stress
- Have oral-motor-skill deficits
- Are not eating like other children
- Are not growing well

If your child has not had at least three months of outpatient therapy, you can contact the Pediatric Feeding Program if your child:

- Has a naso-gastric tube and the amount he or she eats or drinks has not increased for at least three months
- Has been hospitalized for dehydration two or more times in the past two months
- Is losing weight

Service Continuum

The goal of the service continuum is for the child to eat like other children.

Evaluation Clinic: The purpose is to determine whether the child and family are appropriate for the program.

Day-treatment Program: The purpose is to help caregivers make a big change in the child's feeding behavior.

Outpatient Program: The purpose is to make sure the child's feeding behavior improves after the child and family finish the day-treatment program.

What to Expect

Evaluation Clinic:

Before the evaluation, the caregiver must (a) get a referral from the child's doctor, (b) fill out a screening form, (c) write down what the child eats and drinks for three days, (d) get the child's medical records, and (e) send these items to the intake coordinator. During the evaluation, the team will watch you and your child during a meal. The team will ask you some questions. The team will talk to you about what your family needs to do if your child is in the program.

Day-treatment Program:

Caregiver participation is required. The child will come to the clinic all day, Monday through Friday, for approximately eight weeks. A team will work with the child and their caregiver(s). The team will complete individualized assessments and use this information to develop a treatment for your child. Once your child has made progress with their treatment, the team will train caregivers to do this treatment in the clinic. The team will go to the home for about a week to make sure the treatment works for the caregivers in the home. The child graduates from the day-treatment program when (a) the child meets the treatment goals, (b) caregivers are trained, and (c) the team has done the home visits.

Outpatient Program:

The program starts right after the child finishes the day-treatment program. Appointment schedules depend on the severity of the feeding problem after day treatment but range from weekly to monthly. The therapist will watch the caregiver feed the child. The therapist will give the caregiver homework. The homework will include feeding the child in a certain way and keeping records on the child's feeding behavior. We typically do outpatient appointments via telehealth. The outpatient program can range from one to three years and depends on a child's progress toward age or developmentally appropriate eating.