

Swallowing Awareness Day



Dysphagia: How does it affect children?

What difficulties does dysphagia lead to in infants, children and young people?

- Issues with the development of feeding skills
- Behavioural issues associated with eating, drinking and mealtimes
- Can cause chest infections, pneumonia, choking, dehydration, weight loss and malnutrition

How can speech and language therapists (SLTs) help?

- They can assess and identify possible causes of eating and drinking difficulties
- They can provide mealtime assessments
- They can refer children for a videofluoroscopy
- They can recommend changes to feeding equipment, changes to the texture of food or drink, and changes to feeding positions



How many children and young people are affected by dysphagia?

- Between **25% and 45%** of a typically developing paediatric population



- Between **31% and 99%** of children with cerebral palsy



- Between **26.8% and 40%** of infants born prematurely



For more information, visit www.rcslt.org