

DYSPHAGIA: HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHILDREN?

Infants, children and young people with neurodisability and those born prematurely are most likely to be at risk of dysphagia. However, feeding difficulties also occur in typically developing 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 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, to the texture of food or drink, or to feeding positions



FIND OUT MORE AT [RCSLT.ORG/DYSPHAGIA](https://www.rcslt.org/dysphagia)