

If you would like to speak to someone regarding your child's referral, please contact us on the number overleaf. Please note that referral to the service needs to be made by a health professional.

Confidentiality

All our staff are required to abide by a strict code of conduct on confidentiality. We will only share information with those who need to know in order to provide good quality care. Occasionally there may be exceptions to this, for example to support a clinical audit or to monitor the quality of care provided. We will usually discuss this with you beforehand.

Your opinion matters

We are committed to providing the highest standards of care, so we welcome your views on the services we provide. If you would like to comment, make a suggestion or make a complaint, please speak to the person you normally see or ask to speak

to the team manager. You may also like to speak to our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) by ringing 020 8308 5449.

How to contact us

The Children's Development Centre
B-Block, 3rd Floor
Queen Mary's Hospital
Frogna Avenue
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 6LT

T: 020 8302 2678 ext 2770/2774

E: oxl-tr.slt-admin@nhs.net

How to get here

Buses: 229, 286, R11, 160, 269, B14

Train: The nearest stations are at Sidcup and Chislehurst, which are a five minute taxi ride away

Parking: There is a pay and display car park on the hospital site.



Bexley Paediatric Feeding Team: information for parents and carers

Bexley Specialist Children's Services

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This leaflet is for parents and carers of children who have been referred to the paediatric feeding service. It introduces the team, explains the problems we can help with, who we work with and the support we offer.

Introducing our service

Your child has been referred to the paediatric feeding service. We help children with complex needs aged 0-19 years who:

- have an impairment of the muscles of their mouth, mouth movements or ability to swallow, which prevents them from developing a normal eating or drinking pattern
- receive their nutrition non-orally, eg via gastrostomy or naso-gastric tube.

You may have noticed the following signs and symptoms during your child's mealtimes:

- food spillage from the mouth or residue left in the mouth after eating
- frequent coughing or sputtering, watery eyes or change of breathing pattern during mealtimes
- mealtimes lasting more than 30 minutes

- your child is unhappy, uncomfortable or distressed at mealtimes.

If the eating/feeding difficulties are behavioural (learnt behaviours which may be related to the above or from early experiences) a range of parenting services is available. These are for children up to five-years-old (school reception year.) These may include play experiences to explore different senses such as messy play, supportive fun-based cooking groups in children's centres or age-appropriate opportunities for children to build their general skills and confidence. We also offer specific programmes to support parenting issues which can present as food refusal.

Your health visitor, pre-school or childminder can also provide you with support and advice. Please ask your health visitor for a parenting services referral form.

Assessment

Once we receive a referral from your child's doctor we will discuss this at our paediatric feeding team meeting.

We will then assess your child based on their age and the difficulties that they have. Some children are seen by more than one professional, for example, the speech and language therapist and a member of the Community Children's Nursing Team or a dietitian. Children with complex feeding issues may be seen in our feeding clinic.

The assessment will involve one or more of the following.

- A detailed case history, including relevant medical details.
- We will observe a mealtime at home, school or in the clinic, to help us understand your child's physical, sensory and communication issues.
- A evaluation of your child's oral-motor skills (including swallowing).
- Advice for you on how to help your child.
- An initial management plan.
- Referral to specialists

from other services for further investigations and management as necessary.

Who will my child see in our feeding clinic?

The clinic may include one or more of the following professionals depending on the child's needs:

- community paediatrician
- speech and language therapist
- dietitian
- community nurse
- health visitor
- occupational therapist
- physiotherapist.

Your appointment will last between 60-90 minutes.

Where will the clinic be held?

The clinic is held in the Children's Development Centre, B-Block, Queen Mary's Hospital.

What happens after the assessment?

Depending on the outcome of the assessment your child may remain under the feeding team for reviews and ongoing advice, be referred to other services as needed or discharged.