

## Trainings offered by the IU13 Feeding Team:

The IU13 Feeding Team offers specialized trainings for professionals and families to assist students with feeding and swallowing difficulties related to oral, physical and sensory challenges.

### Target audiences include:

- Universities – Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology and Special Education Programs
- School-Based Special Education Departments (Teachers, Para educators, PCAs and Nurses)
- Related Service Providers: Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy Professionals
- Parents and Caregivers

### Trainings Offered:

- Help Stop the Spoon Attack! The Impact of Social Interaction and Non-Verbal Communication on Safe and Effective Eating (2 Hours)
- Helping Students with Special Needs with Safe and Healthy Eating in School (2 Hours)
- Helping your Special Needs Child with Safe and Healthy Eating at Home (2 Hours)
- Feeding Difficulties and Intervention Strategies in School-Aged Children (Full Day)
- Feeding Difficulties and Strategies in the Autism Spectrum Population (Full Day)
- Oral Motor and Sensory Feeding Issues in the School Age Population (One or Two Day Programs)



### Contact Information

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## IU13 Comprehensive Feeding Services



Safe and effective eating for children with disabilities

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## About the service:

The IU13 Comprehensive Feeding Service provides specialized evaluation and intervention for children with documented or suspected difficulties with safe and successful eating at school and home.

The feeding team consists of a speech language pathologist and an occupational therapist with expertise in oral motor difficulties and dysphagia (swallowing difficulties), as well as extensive training in the Sequential Oral Sensory (SOS) Approach to feeding. The feeding team service includes a thorough assessment of feeding skills including components of positioning and seating, oral-motor abilities, swallowing, sensory processing, and digestion/nutrition. The assessment is followed by a detailed report, communication with caregivers, therapists and educational team, as well two follow-up visits.

## Who may be referred to the feeding team?

### Children with the following eating difficulties:

- Exhibit impairment with oral motor skills and/or swallowing
- Display evidence of choking, coughing, or drooling
- Have a significant history of upper respiratory infections possibly related to aspiration
- Receive nutrition through means other than oral eating/drinking (tube fed) and show the potential to eat and/or drink by mouth
- Demonstrate nutritional concerns related to limited food/liquid intake
- Exhibit sensory concerns and behaviors related to food selectivity, which may include food refusal, limited variety of preferred foods, food texture issues, gagging, spitting and crying



## How will children/families benefit?

### Improvement with:

- Oral motor skills related to eating
- Safe and effective swallowing skills
- Intake of healthy food items
- Overall health and nutrition
- Behaviors that interfere with successful eating
- Mealtime communication and social interaction with peers and caregivers

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