



Dysphagia Assessment and Intervention in School and Community Settings



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Introduction

- Increased need for school based SLP to identify dysphagia
- Description of *educational relevance* as it relates to a child's ability to eat safely and in a developmentally appropriate manner.
- Procedures for obtaining medical information and developing goals and specially designed instruction for an IEP/IFSP

Feeding Protocol

- Referral for oral motor & feeding evaluation
- Parent/guardian obtains medical clearance from physician
- Permission to evaluate/release of information obtained
- Team reviews all information
- Feeding assessment begins once medical clearance received
- Parent provides food with therapist input
- Evaluation findings and recommendations are written and shared with team and doctor.
- IEP written to include goals, specific feeding procedures, feeding plan, and diet information.
- NOREP issued and signed by parent/guardian
- New medical clearance must be obtained annually or any time child has related testing or is hospitalized.
- NOREP issued each time there is a change in relevant portions of IEP

Individual Education Plan

Child's Health and Safety Issues Determine:

<u>Goals/Objectives</u>	<u>Specially Designed Instruction</u>
Educational relevance	Positioning
Specific prompts/cues	Adaptive equipment
Measurable	Strategies for optimal eating performance
Observable outcome	Setting i.e. minimal distraction, classroom cafeteria, etc.
	Oral motor strategies

Documentation

Parent Letter Includes:

- The need for an assessment
- Permission to Evaluate
- A request that parent forward forms to physician
- Permission to consult with the physician
- Explanation that the need for treatment occurs after the evaluation

Doctor Letter Includes:

- Intent to support child in his/her educational setting
- Relevance of feeding in education
- Request for permission to perform oral motor assessment and intake of food
- Request for pertinent medical documentation

Conclusion

Protocol is based on:

- ASHA Code of Ethics (Principle 1) SLP is responsible for the welfare of the person being served
- Accountability for identification of children with disabilities under Child Find requirements of IDEA
- Proper identification and treatment of children with dysphagia