

Referral Criteria for Eating, Drinking & Swallowing – Speech and Language Therapy team

Please select from the descriptions below which have been rated as Red/Amber/Green and are designed to support referrers in deciding when to refer to this Team. Descriptors rated as green will provide signposting information as a referral to the Team is not indicated.

If the descriptor is rated as amber, please contact the Team via S1 task to SALT Admin task group or on 0300 304 5555 to discuss further.

For descriptors rated as red please complete the referral form and note the signposting information to support the infant /child whilst the referral is processed and waiting for an appointment.

Eating, Drinking & Swallowing	Referral Guidance	Advice if required
Infant/baby under 12 months old having difficulties with breast feeding or infant bottle feeding	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with Health Visitor or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support. locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times Discuss with Locala Infant feeding advisor locala.org.uk/services/infant-feeding
Child under 12 months or developmentally less than 12 months old, has no medical conditions, eats solids but may gag on solid foods.	Referral not appropriate	Signpost to How to start weaning - Start for Life - NHS (www.nhs.uk) Discuss with Health Visitor or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support. locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times
Baby/child vomits during or after feed. Concerns regarding reflux	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with Health Visitor or GP or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support.

No concerns re eating, drinking, or swallowing.		locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times Reflux and bottle feeding - Start for Life - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Child only eats a small variety of food and is selective with foods, may refuse to eat certain food e.g. vegetables. No concerns re drinking or swallowing. No concerns re growth or weight	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with Health Visitor or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support. locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times Top tips to get your fussy toddler to eat - BBC Tiny Happy People
Child drinks more milk than recommended for age resulting in eating less solid foods. No concerns re drinking or swallowing. No concerns re growth or weight	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with Health Visitor or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support. locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times Nutrition for toddlers and pre-schoolers
Child only eats a small variety of food and is selective with foods, especially dislikes touching foods or getting messy with foods. No concerns re drinking or swallowing. No concerns re growth or weight.	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with Health visitor or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support. locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times Top tips to get your fussy toddler to eat - BBC Tiny Happy People
Child has a tongue tie but can eat a range of textures. No concerns re drinking or swallowing. No concerns re growth or weight	Referral not appropriate	

Child not growing/gaining weight as expected. No concerns re eating, drinking or swallowing.	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with Health Visitor or GP or attend Well Baby Drop-in session for advice / support. locala.org.uk/services/health-visiting/clinic-information-and-times
Children with an eating disorder associated with a known or suspected psychological diagnosis e.g. anorexia	Referral not appropriate	Discuss with CAMHS
Is fed non-orally and requires oral stimulation advice	Please refer	Tube feeding Bliss
Is fed non-orally e.g. gastrostomy tube, nasogastric fed and is ready for consideration of oral intake	Please refer	
Concerns regarding swallowing difficulties. May show risk signs when eating and drinking such as eye tearing, persistent coughing, changes in respiration. Has a history of current / recurrent chest infections. May be concerns re growth.	Please refer	Feeding your baby - Start for Life - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Has a medical condition that may affect eating, drinking, and swallowing and there has been a change in these skills.	Please refer	
Child under 18 months who has sensory aversive responses to food/fluids/ touch around mouth which is impacting on eating and drinking. May only eats a small variety of food or drink.	Please refer	Top tips to get your fussy toddler to eat - BBC Tiny Happy People

<p>May be selective with texture, especially may dislike touching foods or getting messy.</p> <p>May have previous history which impacts on positive experiences and opportunities for eating and drinking such as non- oral feeding, history of prematurity, prolonged hospitalisation, medical history.</p>		
Unclear about child's presentation	Referral not appropriate?	Contact the Team to discuss on 0300 304 5555 or S1 Task