

SAFE EATING/FEEDING IN THE SCHOOLS

When there are concerns about safe eating or nutrition with a student in school, the IEP team, with at least the school nurse, occupational therapist and speech therapist should complete an observation, collaborate with the family, review medical records and develop a plan for safe eating at school.

Students who have a safe eating/feeding protocol in place should have a copy uploaded as part of the IEP and list it under accommodations. This should be updated annually at the beginning of the school year or any other time that changes need made.

If a child is on a feeding tube (nothing by mouth allowed) then the school nurse is responsible for the tube feeding protocol and training.

FEEDING PROTOCOL UPDATE PROCEDURE

At the beginning of each school year the case manager will pull the team together (at minimum the Nurse, SLP & OT) for each student currently on a safe feeding protocol.

The Team will complete an observation while student is eating.

The Team will complete an updated protocol using the template on the computer.

All staff who will be feeding need to be trained by the IEP team and sign off confirming that they understand the protocol.

Make copy for the classroom and keep in a confidential but easy to access area for regular review. (Inside the cabinet door?). Add a copy to the student's IEP. A safe feeding protocol should be listed on the accommodation page of the student's IEP.

FEEDING EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Any team member who sees that a child needs a feeding evaluation should pull the team together (at minimum the Nurse, SLP, OT, and parent) to review the feeding history, medical concerns, and possibilities for safe feeding in the school setting.

If the child is currently being fed orally at home then the team will complete an observation while the parent demonstrates how they feed the child.

Each discipline can fill in the specific checklists to use as guidelines. The risk factor checklist is the most important one to complete. A written summary and safe feeding /eating protocol can be completed as a team.

The Bend school district has a feeding team that consists of OT, PT, SLP and RN. This team can be called upon for a 2nd opinion to complete a feeding evaluation and assist the school team in writing a safe eating/feeding protocol. The school team is then responsible to train the staff who will be assisting the child.