**For Immediate Release**

**Governor Ducey** **Proclaims December 2020   
Pediatric Feeding Disorder Awareness Month**

**PHOENIX, Ariz. (November 23, 2020)** – Governor Doug Duceyhas issued a proclamation declaring December 2020 as the second annual *Pediatric Feeding Disorder Awareness Month*. In 2019, Phoenix based nonprofit, [Feeding Matters](http://www.feedingmatters.org/), requested this special designation to highlight the medical, emotional, financial, educational and social struggles that families navigating the broad spectrum of pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) face. Feeding Matters encourages all Arizonans to join in support of efforts to improve care for the individualized needs of children with PFD through advocacy, education, support and research.

Defined as impaired oral intake that is not age-appropriate and is associated with medical, nutritional, feeding skills, and/or psychosocial dysfunction, PFD is more than a symptom, it is its own condition. PFD is estimated to affect more than 2.3 million children nationally. Struggling families face many barriers including; a lack of evidence-based data, the diverse and often misunderstood or underserved nature of PFD, grief and pressure when they can’t feed their child.

“This issue is more pervasive than people realize and therefore may be going undiagnosed.  Current research tells us that more than 1 in 37 children have PFD and even more significant - 1 in 3 to 5 children with a chronic disease has PFD,” said Jaclyn Pederson,chief executive officer of Feeding Matters. We hope that Pediatric Feeding Disorder Awareness Month inspires more families, members of the medical community, educational institutions, government entities, insurers and the broader community worldwide to ask questions and seek support. We also invite anyone interested to join us for our annual [International PFD conference](https://www.feedingmatters.org/international-pfd-conference/). This is a great opportunity for people in our community to become an informed support base to the millions of children who are impacted,” Pederson concluded.

The simple [Feeding Matters Infant and Child Feeding Questionnaire](https://questionnaire.feedingmatters.org/questionnaire) may help target areas of concern for families and physicians. Families are also encouraged to visit: [Resources and Support](https://www.feedingmatters.org/resources-support/).

To View the Governor’s proclamation in full, click [here](https://www.feedingmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PFD-Awareness-Procl_AZ.pdf).

**About Feeding Matters**

For kids with pediatric feeding disorder (PFD), every bite of food can be painful, scary, or simply impossible to swallow, potentially impeding nutrition, development, growth, and overall well-being. Yet, there is no functional system of care for PFD locally, nationally, or internationally. That’s why Feeding Matters is dedicated to creating a world where children with pediatric feeding disorder will thrive. Established in 2006, Feeding Matters is the first organization in the world uniting the concerns of families with the field’s leading advocates, experts, and allied healthcare professionals to ignite unprecedented change to the system of care through advocacy, education, support, and research – including a stand-alone diagnosis, the International Pediatric Feeding Disorder Conference, and the Infant and Child Feeding Questionnaire. In 2018, Feeding Matters reached more than 125,000 individuals in 50 states and 143 countries through their programs and website. To learn more about pediatric feeding disorder, visit [feedingmatters.org](http://www.feedingmatters.org) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube at [@FeedingMatters](http://www.twitter.com/feedingmatters).

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