feeding matters Pediatric Feeding Disorder: The Four Domains at Work

MEDICAL

Screens for and manages medical conditions which may be contributing to feeding difficulty, assesses for safety to initiate the intervention, and addresses new medical needs which arise via medical testing, medication management, referrals, and coordination of care.

FEEDING SKILL

Focuses on building feeding, eating, and swallowing skills needed for functional mealtime participation, including mechanical and nutritive oral-motor coordination for mastication and control of solid and liquid boluses. Also assesses swallow safety, works toward normalization of intra and peri-oral sensitivity (e.g., reduced gagging), advances diet texture in meals, modifies seating and positioning for safe feeding practice, and promotes selffeeding skills.

PSYCHOSOCIAL

Focuses on improving child mealtime behaviors, modifying parent-child interactions during meals, and enhancing caregiver management approaches with the goal of the child developing a positive relationship with food. Systematically introduces exposure to new foods and conducts caregiver training to support generalization of skill into the home setting.

NUTRITION

Determines meal and nutrition plans, monitors growth and nutritional intake and provide oversight to ensure children are provided with balanced nutrition, grow appropriately, and tolerate new foods. Adjusts feeding schedules to best facilitate oral intake and oversees supplementation transitions.

FEEDINGMATTERS.ORG