



the children's center
REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

The Parent's Role for Intensive Feeding Program

As a parent/caregiver, you are a huge part of our feeding team! During the admission, one parent or caregiver stays around the clock with the child throughout the entirety of the nineteen day admission. Due to the nature of the therapy and learning process, the same caregiver must stay throughout the entire admission. This caregiver will be highly involved and integrated into the feeding therapy process to ensure that new skills or techniques continue in the home environment. A secondary feeder, such as the other parent or grandparent, may be integrated during the third week of the program, based on the family's situation and the child's progress in treatment.

Responsibilities of parent before the program:

- Provide medical records and complete pre-admission screening paperwork
- Participate in pre-admission team consultation

Responsibilities of the parent during the program:

Attend all feeding therapy sessions with the child.

- Consult with feeding therapists regarding each session and what they are learning.
- Consult with the psychologist and social worker regarding behavioral strategies and techniques, as well as coping with the changes in the feeding process.
- Be open to learning new strategies and changing ways of interaction with the child.
- Complete meal orders and food log daily.
- Spend the night at the hospital with the child
- Participate in weekly team meetings to discuss child's progress and goals

Responsibilities of parent after the program:

- Allow for at least an additional week off of work/school to apply the child's new feeding structure, skills and management techniques into the home environment.
- Maintain structured mealtime schedule in the home environment.
- Plan for at least three months of intentional feeding time with the child several times each day until the skills are mastered and the child is more independent.
- Follow-up with outpatient therapy recommendations.
- Help other family members and caregivers understand the skills learned in the program to maintain consistency in all of the child's meals.