

Halton Speech and Language Therapy Service

Eating and drinking referral guidelines

For Children aged from 9 to 17 months

Area of concern:	What should you do?
<p><u>Eating and drinking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has not progressed from eating pureed textures (from 12 months of age) due to a mechanical chewing difficulty, rather than a reluctance to accept new tastes and textures. • Child regularly coughs when eating or drinking. You may also observe frequent throat clearing during/after eating and drinking, eye watering, reddening cheeks, gurgly voice and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child has recurrent chest infections ○ Child has lost weight. 	<p>REFER</p>

For Children aged 18 – 24 months

Area of concern:	What should you do?
<p><u>Eating and drinking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has not progressed from eating puree or mashed textures due to a mechanical chewing difficulty, rather than a reluctance to accept new tastes and textures. • Child has not made expected progress with weaning due to difficulties with oral skills (movements of lips, tongue and chewing), rather than a reluctance to eat different tastes and textures. • Child regularly coughs when eating or drinking. You may also observe frequent throat clearing during/after eating and drinking, eye watering, reddening cheeks, gurgly voice and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child has recurrent chest infections ○ Child has lost weight. 	<p>REFER</p>

For Children aged 2 years – 16 years

Area of concern:	What should you do?
<p><u>Eating and drinking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has difficulties with oral skills (movements of lips, tongue and chewing) which impacts on the range of food textures they eat. • Child regularly coughs when eating or drinking. You may also observe frequent throat clearing during/after eating and drinking, eye watering, reddening cheeks, gurgly voice and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Child has recurrent chest infections o Child has lost weight. 	<p>REFER</p>