

Children's speech and language therapy service
(dysphagia / eating / drinking referrals)
Phoenix Children's Resource Centre
40 Masons Hill
Bromley BR2 9JG

Tel: 020 8315 4706

**Bromley
Healthcare**
better together

Working with



Dysphagia / eating and drinking referrals

Tell us what you think

We want you to be happy with the service you receive from us, but we know that every so often something might go wrong. If you're unhappy with the care you receive or an element of our service, we want to hear from you.

Of course, we also want to hear from you if you're happy with the care you're receiving - it's good to be able to thank the team and let people know they're doing a good job, so if you have a compliment or congratulation, we'd love to hear from you.

If we are unable to resolve your concerns or you would like to take the matter further please contact us at the address below:

Beckenham Beacon
379 Croydon Road
Beckenham BR3 3QL
Tel: 01689 866544
contact@bromleyhealthcare-cic.nhs.uk
www.bromleyhealthcare.org.uk

Bromley Healthcare Community Interest Company Ltd
Company no: 06815987 Registered in England
Registered office: Beckenham Beacon, 379 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 3QL

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Children's speech
and language
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Information for
referrers



Our service is for children

- With an impairment of their oral-motor skills (including the swallow), leading to difficulties in developing a normal eating and/or drinking pattern. This may be related to structural abnormality, neurological impairment or a complex, chronic developmental or health problem.
- Who will receive their nutrition non-orally eg, via gastrostomy.
- Eating and drinking difficulties of behavioural origin are not considered to be appropriate referrals, although it is recognised that this may become a secondary issue, resulting from any of the factors listed above.

Referral

Referrals can be made by completing the 'referral form for health professionals'. You may be asked to complete an 'additional referral information' form. Please send it to:

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Where the referral information indicates an acute difficulty that may include aspiration or choking, a direct referral to a tertiary service should be made by the medical team.



Assessment

The assessment procedure will be specific to the age and presenting difficulties of the child. This would normally include:

- A detailed case history, including relevant medical details
- Observation of the mealtime within the home / school / hospital environment, to gain an indication of the physical, sensory and communication issues
- Oral-motor skills evaluation (including the swallow)

What happens after the assessment

- Specific advice to parents on how to help their child
- Liaison with the referrer and others involved to:
 - Enable each child to develop their eating and / or drinking skills to their maximum potential
 - Enhance mutual understanding of the issues related to the child's eating and / or drinking difficulties
- This may include a referral to tertiary specialists for objective assessment.