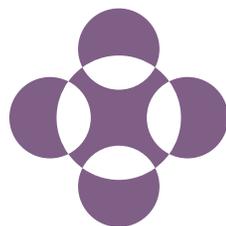


**MANY INFANTS AND
CHILDREN BATTLE WITH
THE FUNDAMENTALS OF
FEEDING — THEY ARE NOT
JUST PICKY EATERS.**



feeding matters

*Conquering pediatric feeding struggles
to nourish healthy futures*

FEEDING STRUGGLES AFFECT



OVER A MILLION CHILDREN NATIONWIDE ARE IDENTIFIED WITH SEVERE FEEDING STRUGGLES. THOUSANDS MORE GO UNDIAGNOSED.

U.S. Census Data, 2010

*Feeding struggles
are often underlying
symptoms for over*

**204
DIAGNOSES**

Judarwanto; Picky Eaters Clinic, 2009

Diagnoses associated with feeding struggles:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Autism Spectrum Disorders | Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) |
| Cerebral Palsy | Failure to Thrive |
| Congenital Heart Disease | Mitochondrial Disease |
| Cystic Fibrosis | Prematurity |
| Down Syndrome | Reflux |

THE SUFFERING CONTINUES

There is a general lack of awareness on how to diagnose and treat infants and children with feeding struggles. Families are bounced from one medical professional to another trying to figure out what is wrong. Care is fragmented and families are challenged with facilitating the care for their child.

\$32k

ANNUAL COST

for a child on a feeding tube

Orentlicher & Callahan, 2004

EATING IS INSTINCTUAL ONLY IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF LIFE. AFTER THAT, IT IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR. EARLY INTERVENTION IS CRITICAL.

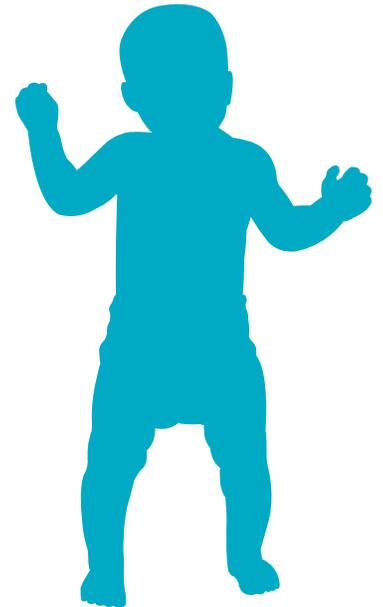
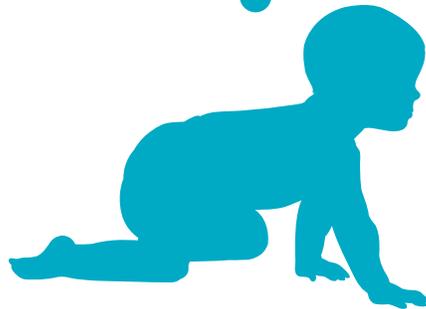
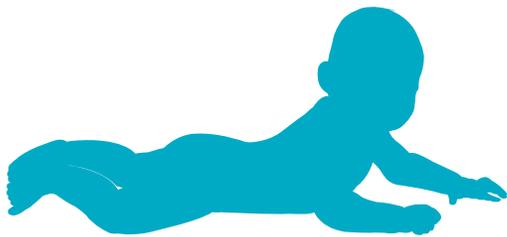
When children are unable to eat they **cannot thrive cognitively, physically, or emotionally.**

Eating is the body's **3rd priority**, only breathing and keeping one's head up are of greater importance.

Eating is **more difficult** than walking or talking.

A single swallow requires the use of **26 muscles** and **6 cranial nerves.***

Eating is the only bodily task that requires the use of **every organ and all of the senses.**



*Bass & Morrell, 1992

FEEDING IS COMPLEX

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO CARE

Feeding Matters® is spearheading the effort to conquer pediatric feeding struggles through a consortium of thought leadership.



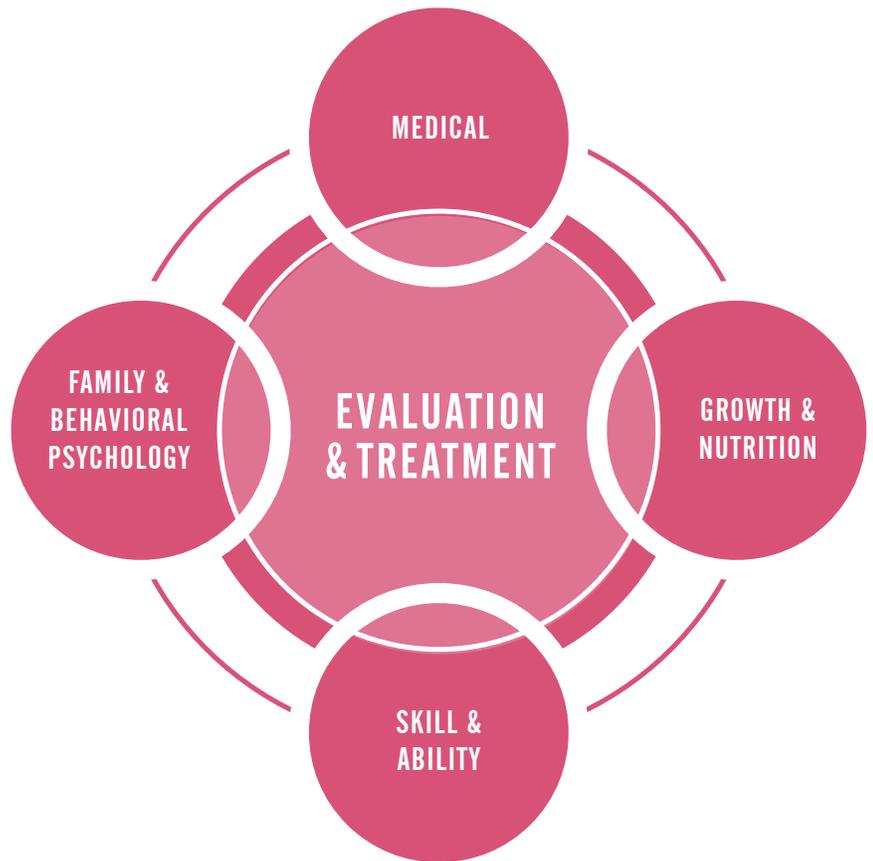
“Yes, it appears your daughter has the rare diseases that debilitate your son, and yes, she will also need a feeding tube in order to live.” I couldn’t believe my ears. The doctors were certain that the diseases our son has were so rare, that a second child with the same thing was highly unlikely. Yet there we were, alone in a world with questions that specialists could not

answer, and we had never seen a child with a feeding tube in our community, let alone a family with two. In our search for answers, my family was continuously passed from specialist to specialist. Some listened more than others but each provider’s advice contradicted the next and our frustration continued.

My best friend said, “You need to meet others who will help you run this race.” She told me about Feeding Matters®, and said that they would help us navigate my children’s unique journey. Finding this organization changed our lives. Finally, I am surrounded by others who know first-hand the daily battles I am facing. They helped me understand collaborative care is crucial because pediatric feeding struggles are complex and no singular specialist will have all the answers.

With the help of Feeding Matters®, we’ve found a team of feeding experts who are working together to put the pieces of the puzzle together for our family.

Each team member has expertise in a specific field and our voice is heard and matters. My children have a long road ahead of them but without the help of Feeding Matters®, I would still be searching for answers and being passed from provider to provider getting nowhere. For the first time I know I’m not alone. I’ve found the kind of support and hope our family needs.



Feeding Matters® promotes coordinated care that addresses all aspects of a child’s well-being.

“ This organization has harnessed the powerful voice and passions of parents to unify a formidable force of professionals and advocates to bring awareness and give voice to the large number of children and their families affected by feeding & swallowing problems. ”

- JULIE BARKMEIER-KRAEMER, PHD, CCC-SLP (UC DAVIS)

TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE

Your role is crucial in continuing our efforts towards bringing this previously shadowed issue to the forefront.



PARENTS. We hear you — and your voice matters.

Our dedication is driven by the necessity to minimize the challenge for families with feeding struggles. Between our personal experience with the problem and our partnership with the medical community, our hub of resources provides the support, expertise, and hope that families need.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY. Our thought leaders have created tools and resources to help establish best practices that foster collaborative approaches to care. With an increased understanding of the complexities of pediatric feeding struggles and the promotion of coordinated care, our medical community has the power to positively impact every child's well-being and future. Take your place at the table to transform the landscape of pediatric feeding struggles.



SUPPORTERS. Join the Feeding Matters® team on our mission to transform the landscape of feeding struggles to positively impact the lives of infants and children. Your role is crucial in continuing our efforts to bring a previously shadowed issue to the forefront. Your generosity matters; there's not a better time than now to take your place at the table.



ADVOCATE.

Spread the word to make a positive impact.



DONATE.

Contribute financially to support our mission.



VOLUNTEER.

Take the time to make a difference.



feeding matters

Feeding Matters® is bringing pediatric feeding struggles to the forefront so infants and children are identified early, families' voices are heard, and medical professionals are equipped to deliver collaborative care.

We overcome the complex issues of pediatric feeding struggles through our five mission pillars: education, advocacy, research, treatment, and support.

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