

**WARRINGTON SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY**

**EATING & DRINKING REFERRAL GUIDELINES**

**For Children aged from 9 to 17 months**

Area of Concern:	What should you do?
<p><b><u>Eating and drinking</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Child has recurrent chest infections</li> <li>○ Child has lost weight.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>REFER</b></p>

**For Children aged 18 – 24 months**

Area of Concern:	What should you do?
<p><b><u>Eating and drinking</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Child has recurrent chest infections</li> <li>○ Child has lost weight.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>REFER</b></p>

**For Children aged 2 years – 2 years 6 months**

Area of Concern:	What should you do?
<p><b><u>Eating and drinking</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child has difficulties with oral skills (movements of lips, tongue and chewing) which impacts on the range of food textures they eat.</li><li>• 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"><li>○ Child has recurrent chest infections</li><li>○ Child has lost weight.</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>REFER</b>

**For Children aged 2 years 7 months – 3 years**

**For Children aged 3 years 1 month - 3 years 6 months**

**For Children aged 3 years 7 months – 4 years 6 months**

**For Children aged 4 years 7 months – 5 years 6 months**

**For Children aged 5 years 7 months – 7 years**

**For Children aged 7 years – 11 years**

**For Children aged 12 years – 16 years**

For all ages above, use the same as 2 years – 2 years 6 months.