

DYSPHAGIA: HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHILDREN?

Dysphagia affects:

Between **25 - 40 %** of a typically developing paediatric population

Between **31 - 99 %** of children with cerebral palsy

Between **26.8 - 40 %** of infants born prematurely

What difficulties does dysphagia lead to in infants, children and young people?

- Issues with the development of feeding skills
- Behavioural issues associated with eating, drinking and mealtimes
- Can cause chest infections, pneumonia, choking, dehydration, weight loss and malnutrition

How can speech and language therapists help?

- They can assess and identify possible causes of eating and drinking difficulties
- They can provide mealtime assessments
- They can refer children for a videofluoroscopy
- They can recommend changes to feeding equipment, to the texture of food or drink, or to feeding positions



FIND OUT MORE AT [RCSLT.ORG/DYSPHAGIA](https://www.rcslt.org/dysphagia)

