

Mealtime and Feeding Service

Individual and Group Support

Our experienced feeding team includes Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists and supports children, young people and families with a range of mealtime strategies and intervention.

Our team utilises various intervention programs including the Sequential Oral Sensory (SOS) Approach, Mealtime Matters and varied evidence based practices.

Individual and Group Support

Target group

Children aged 0-18 years with a sensory impairment. This may include children who are deaf or hearing impaired, blind or vision impaired and autism spectrum disorder.

What to expect

Our feeding service will be uniquely tailored to meet each child's individual needs. This may include service in either the home or within a Can:Do 4Kids centre, and may be in groups or individually.

Preferably sessions are carried out in a child's home as this is the primary environment where mealtimes occur, however group programs may occur in other environments.

Families will be supported by an Occupational Therapist or a Speech Pathologist dependent on mealtime goals. In some instances both therapists may be involved.

The range of services may include the following:

Feeding assessment

- This service may include support from both an Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist

Individual feeding therapy in the home or centre

- This service may include up to two assessment sessions with both Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy input (six therapy sessions and one review session)

Feeding group for pre-school or school aged children

- This service may include up to two assessment sessions with both Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy input (10 group therapy sessions with parent discussion topics and one review session)

The number of mealtime sessions may vary. Therapists will work in collaboration with the family to develop and review a service that is flexible and tailored to the child's goals and needs.

Aims of the program

The aim of the service is to increase the enjoyment of food and mealtimes for both the child and family. It will also address needs in the areas of independence and development.

Goals of the program

Goals are individually developed by the child and their family with the support of therapists. Goals may target different skills and aspects of mealtimes.

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Outcomes

Children will develop skills in:

- Expressive, receptive and social language skills
- Cutlery skills
- Development of routines
- Attention and concentration
- Gross and fine motor skill development
- Positive family mealtime experiences

Eligibility criteria

Families must be registered for services with Can:Do 4Kids.

Can:Do 4Kids is not able to support the following feeding concerns:

- Tube feeding and weaning off tube feeding
- Children with tracheostomys and feeding concerns
- Newborn Failure to Thrive
- Children with complex feeding issues who are currently managed by a medical team within a hospital

Staff

Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists are allied health professionals.

Speech Pathologists are specifically trained to work with members of the community who have difficulty developing and using communication. Speech Pathologists are also skilled and trained in the areas of swallowing and feeding development throughout the lifespan.

Occupational Therapists are specifically trained to support individuals to reach and/or maintain the highest level of independence and function in all aspects of their lives.

Can:Do 4Kids feeding service Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists have completed further training in feeding development, fussy eating, eating issues, family mealtimes and environmental set-up.

Can:Do 4Kids Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists, work as a part of a multidisciplinary team alongside Early Intervention Consultants, Assistive Technology specialists, Child and Youth Development Consultants, Orientation and Mobility specialists, Physiotherapists, Social Workers and Audiologists.

Locations

The therapist/s may see a child/young adult:

- In the classroom
- In the home
- In the community
- At one of our clinic locations

Referrals

Families can contact Can:Do 4Kids directly or with a referral from NDIS, your GP, Specialist or school.

Funding

Can:Do 4Kids are registered to provide services under a variety of funding models including National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Medicare, Private Health and self funded.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, or would like to discuss the best funding method for your child please contact us for further information.

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you. For further information about our services and to discuss your child's needs please contact us; on

Phone: (08) 8100 8200

Email: services@cando4kids.com.au

Web: cando4kids.com.au

Office: 59-61 Grange Road, Welland