



The Centre for Child Development

Therapy, care & support under one umbrella

<https://the-centre.org/feeding-nutrition>

Feeding and Nutrition Services

The Centre for Child Development is a registered charity. Our Centre developed our Feeding and Nutrition service to help fill a gap in health services for our clientele. We do not receive funding from the Ministry of Health or Fraser Health to provide this service.

Our Feeding and Nutrition team assesses feeding and swallowing difficulties and associated risks for children and youth with developmental disabilities in the South Fraser regions. We provide practical feeding recommendations related to safety of swallow, oral motor skills, positioning, equipment, supplemental and/or enteral feeding, and types and textures of food.

We require a community Pediatrician referral in order to ensure our medically complex clients are receiving ongoing pediatric care. The team liaises with the Pediatrician and will facilitate referrals for further medical investigations related to feeding as required.

Although the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC does not currently require annual referrals, we do request them in order to ensure that our clients have access to a pediatrician for other non feeding healthcare concerns.

We ask that copies of consultation notes are forwarded to us as they occur in order to keep us well informed of all client-related medical issues so we can provide the best standard of care. As we are not currently owned, operated or funded by the Ministry of Health and/or a Health Authority, we do not have access to Ministry of Health and/or Health Authority electronic health record information.



Our Team

- Dr. Alison Laswick- Developmental Pediatrician
- Tricia Lee- Registered Dietician
- Morgan Karkling- Occupational Therapist
- Rachel Cameron- Speech Language Pathologist



Contact

Phone: 604-584-1361

Web: www.the-centre.org

Email: fnt@the-centre.org

Fax: 604-583-5113



We are currently accepting referrals for:

Children with developmental concerns whose oral motor and/or swallowing difficulties or aversion contribute to compromised safety and/or nutritional intake, who live in Surrey, Delta, White Rock or Langley.

Referral Criteria

All of the following are required for referrals which may be accepted by The Centre at its sole discretion:

- ✓ 1. Referral made **by Pediatrician along with consultation notes and medical documentation and**
- ✓ 2. Client must be receiving The Centre's Occupational Therapy and/or Speech Language Pathology services **and**
- ✓ 3. Client must have a developmental disability **and**
- ✓ 4. Client has feeding safety concerns

Each referral is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and The Centre reserves the right to redirect referrals to other programs. Children receiving other Centre services do not automatically qualify for Feeding and Nutrition services.

Health care feeding services who wish to transfer services to The Centre must refer directly to our Feeding and Nutrition service. It is recommended that they also communicate with the child's pediatrician.

Please note that these criteria could change at any time based on available resources.

How to Make a Referral

Online: A pediatrician should fill out The Centre's [referral form](#) on our website, and ensure the latest medical consultation report is attached.

Fax: A [PDF version](#) can be downloaded from our website and filled out by the pediatrician, and with the latest medical consultation report attached faxed to: 604-583-5113.



Who we are currently not able to see:

- Clients whose complex medical needs are more urgent than their developmental needs or have underlying medical concerns that are not well controlled. Once the client is medically stable and if they fit the above-mentioned criteria, a re-referral to the team may be reconsidered on a case-by-case basis.
- Self-feeding delays.
- Sensory related feeding issues such as difficulties in progressing textures.
- Dietary only referrals.



In addition, for our Dietary services, clients with the following issues should be referred to a tertiary care Dietician:

- Clients whose main concern is gastroesophageal reflux or vomiting.
- Clients with complex medical issues requiring careful, ongoing monitoring of bloodwork such as, Biochemical disorders, Cardiology, Endocrine Disorders, Oncology clients, etc.
- Clients who may be transitioning between G to GJ feeding. Once the transition has occurred, we will continue to follow. For those transitioning from GJ to G tube, they may be considered after consultation with the child's healthcare team.
- Picky eaters eg. sensory based nutrition issues.
- Clients who are severe or moderate failure to thrive at risk for refeeding syndrome.
- Children who do not meet the Feeding & Nutrition Team criteria.



Since 1953, The Centre for Child Development of the Lower Mainland has worked to overcome societal barriers for those with disabilities and empower vulnerable children and families throughout the South Fraser Region. We are proud to have consistently received 3-year accreditations from CARF since 2004 for our pediatric outpatient Medical Rehabilitation Services and Child & Youth Services. Charitable Registration #10764 6408 RR0001.