



**Tube Feeding Concerns**

What type of tube do they have?  
 NG/NJ/G-tube/J-tube

What is the rate/amount/formula?  
 Pump/Bolus/24-hour



No problems/concerns = continue as usual  
 with GI follow ups

**OT  
 Consult/Referral**



**GI Referral**

**NG/NJ**

Swallow study results and follow up? Frequent vomiting?  
 Rate and flow- bolus feeds could be too fast; amount could be too  
 much; frequency could be too soon; formula could be wrong or too  
 heavy.  
 Unsure? OT Referral or back to GI

**G-Tube/J-Tube**

Swallow study results and follow up? Frequent vomiting?  
 Rate and flow- bolus feeds could be too fast; amount could be too  
 much; frequency could be too soon; formula could be wrong or too  
 heavy.  
 Unsure? OT Referral or back to GI

**Oral Motor Issues**

What you see in the body, you  
 get in the mouth.

Tight vs. Low tone  
 Diet modification?



Regular diet  
 Chopped into small pieces  
 Shredded  
 Mashed (Thick)  
 Purees (food processor)  
 Unsure? OT referral

**OT Consult/Referral**

**TIGHT**

Massage cheek muscles (ears to corners of lips) prior to eating and  
 throughout the day  
 Massage inside cheeks with Nuk or z-vibe (draw C)  
 Stretch lips into smile vs pucker  
 Unsure? Not helping? OT referral

**LOW TONE**

*Looks like:* Drooling; open mouth posture; pocketing foods; no chewing  
*Strengthen:* straw drinking; blowing bubbles; kissy faces; tap cheek for  
 alert to pocketing; chew on chewy tubes  
 Unsure? Not helping? OT Referral

**Sensory Issues**

What sensation reaction is occurring?  
Over reaction vs. under/no reaction



OT Consult/Referral



**OVER REACTION**

*Looks like:* fight, flight, fright (crying, running away, hitting, gagging, covering ears/eyes, chewing on clothes/objects)  
*Try:* reducing stimuli that is triggering; provide appropriate items to chew on; introduce items through play; respect the no; use language to work through vs. hitting;  
*Foods:* similar in color, shapes, texture, taste; bland; room temp; Use positive food descriptions; NEVER hide new food in favorites  
*Not working?* Still need help? OT Referral



ST Consult/Referral



**UNDER/NO REACTION**

*Looks Like:* Sleepiness; boredom; uninterested; distracted  
*Try:* loud music/songs; movement activities; tickle games; bright colors/lights;  
*Foods:* big flavors; spices; cold temperatures; NEVER hide new food in favorites  
*Not working?* OT referral

Is there a language delay?



What is the behavior?  
Is it consistent? At certain times?

**Behavioral Issues**

Behavior is communication- What are they trying to tell me?



**Try these things first:**

Work through reaction if trigger is identified.  
Work with language to identify feelings and use words  
Introduce foods through play (You can't reason or negotiate with this age group)  
Set up family routines- Caregivers should model eating behaviors and actions  
Use of rewards- quick and non-electronic based (bubbles, wind up toys, songs)  
Encouragement- YOU CAN, not forceful language (YOU HAVE TO)

*Not working? Not sure? OT referral*

OT Consult/Referral

