

FEEDING A CHILD USING A GRAVITY FEEDING SET

WHAT IS GRAVITY FEEDING?

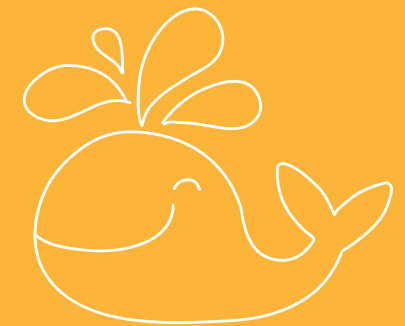
Gravity feeding is a way of receiving a set amount of prescribed feed via a child's feeding tube if they are unable to take their full nutritional requirements by mouth. The feed they receive contains the nutrients needed to meet their nutritional requirements. Their feed is given using a gravity feeding set at a speed recommended by the child's healthcare professional.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Prescribed feed
- Water to flush the feeding tube before and after the feed
- 60ml enteral feeding syringe
- Gravity feeding set
- Watch or clock with second hand
- Hook to hang up feeding container.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- You should only gravity feed a child if you have been advised to do so by their healthcare professional as this method of feeding is not suitable for everyone.
- If the child has a nasogastric feeding tube, you need to make sure the tube is in the right position before giving any feed or water. The child's healthcare professional will advise you on how to do this.
- The child's healthcare professional will tell you how much and what sort of water to use for flushing their feeding tube.



For more information please contact:

Medical Information

medicalinformation@abbott.com

Abbott Pump Centre

Australia: 1800 819 831

New Zealand: 0800 738 090



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

1. Collect all the equipment required
2. Check the label and expiry date on the child's feed to make sure it is the correct product and not out of date
3. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly
4. Get the child to sit in an upright position during feeding if possible (or at least at a 45 degree angle). They should remain in this position for 30 minutes once feeding has been completed
5. Gently shake the feed prior to removing the cap. Remove the cap from the feed container and check that the foil seal is not broken
6. Open the gravity feeding set and close the purple roller clamp on the feeding set
7. Use the screw cap of the feeding set to attach the set to your child's feeding container
8. Hang the child's feeding container on a hook or similar device. This should ideally be above head height of the child
9. Squeeze the drip chamber on the gravity feeding set until it is approximately one-third full of feed
10. Open the purple roller clamp on the feeding set and allow the tubing to fill with feed. Close the clamp
11. Check the child's feeding tube position if necessary, and ensure the tube is clamped if it has one
12. Fill the syringe with the amount of water advised by your healthcare professional
13. Remove the cap from the child's feeding tube, attach the syringe, and unclamp the tube
14. Flush the child's feeding tube with the water in the syringe
15. Clamp the child's feeding tube and remove the syringe
16. Attach the gravity feeding set to the child's feeding tube (release the clamp on the child's feeding tube if it has one)
17. Slowly open the purple clamp on the feeding set until the child's feed starts to drip into the drip chamber. (N.B. The more you unroll the clamp, the faster the drips will fall)
18. Adjust the purple clamp to get the correct speed of drips for the child's normal feeding rate – as directed by their healthcare professional
19. Use your watch or clock to time the child's feeding rate (as advised by their healthcare professional)
20. If the feed is flowing too fast, you need to close the purple clamp slightly. If the feed is flowing too slowly, you need to open the clamp slightly
21. Once you have established the child's desired feeding rate, you can continue to feed until the volume of feed they require has been completed
22. When the child has had the required amount of feed (as advised by their healthcare professional), close the purple roller clamp and clamp their feeding tube, remove the feeding set from their tube
23. As per step 12-15 flush the child's feeding tube with water as advised by their healthcare professional (Unclamp the child's feeding tube once you have removed the syringe and replaced the cap on the child's feeding tube, to avoid the tube flattening over time and becoming damaged)
24. Wash and dry your hands.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- If you experience any difficulties, contact the child's healthcare professional for advice.

