

# Dysphagia

## **What is it?**

Dysphagia is a condition in which the action of swallowing is difficult or painful. Dysphagia can affect individuals in varying degrees.

Swallowing problems in infants and children is often referred to as pediatric dysphagia. Causes vary from neuromuscular diseases, neurological disorders and in children premature birth or the presence of a cleft lip or palate.

Some children have difficulty with swallowing due to sensory discomfort with how food feels in their mouth. Gastric reflux may also contribute to dysphagia.

## **What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms include difficulties during nursing, sucking, eating, swallowing and drinking. Failure to thrive in infants may result from the presence of dysphagia.

## **How is it treated?**

All speech pathologists at PTC experience and expertise in the area of dysphagia and swallowing disorders. Oral Motor/ Feeding therapy will address the specific issues impacting each child's feeding disorder.