



CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENT
& DISABILITY

NM SAFE Pediatric Clinic Program

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Website:

<https://unmhealth.org/services/development-disabilities/programs/clinics/feeding-eating-evaluations.html>

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*Supports and Assessment for
Feeding and Eating
Serving Infants and Children
Birth-17 years*



Collaborative Partner:

NM Department of Health:
Developmental Disabilities
Supports Division (DDSD)



A University Center for Excellence
in Developmental Disabilities
Education, Research and Service

What does NM SAFE do?

The New Mexico Supports and Assessment for Feeding and Eating (NM SAFE) Pediatric Clinic provides feeding evaluations and recommendations. We can assess oral motor function, behavioral issues, positioning, fine motor function, diet/nutrition, and child's responses to food textures and sensory features.



Who Do We Serve?

We serve children who have developmental disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), behavior difficulties, and medical needs. We welcome infants and children, birth - 17 years, with feeding or eating concerns.

- ◆ Risk of aspiration
- ◆ Gastroesophageal reflux
- ◆ Oral motor development (e.g., sucking, chewing, drinking liquids)
- ◆ Mealtime behaviors (“picky” eating, food refusal, eating a limited variety of foods)
- ◆ Positioning and/or seating
- ◆ History of tube feeding
- ◆ Sensory processing differences

NM SAFE Pediatric Clinic Team

The NM SAFE is multi-disciplinary resource team with expertise in feeding and eating:

- ◆ Registered Dietician
- ◆ Speech-Language Pathologist
- ◆ Occupational Therapist
- ◆ Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- ◆ Pediatric Advanced Practice Provider

Who Can Refer?

- ◆ Parents and guardians
- ◆ Nutritionists
- ◆ Physicians or other healthcare providers
- ◆ Speech-Language Pathologists
- ◆ Occupational Therapists
- ◆ Physical Therapists
- ◆ Teachers
- ◆ Early interventionists
- ◆ Case managers



Training and Education

- ◆ Community trainings and outreach
- ◆ Technical assistance and continuing education for professionals
- ◆ Clinical education for graduate and undergraduate students in related healthcare fields

How does it work?

- ◆ Complete the referral form: <https://unmhealth.org/services/development-disabilities/programs/clinics/feeding-eating-evaluations.html>
- ◆ Clinicians review the case and child's medical records. We may request additional information or records.
- ◆ We schedule appointments for telehealth or clinic visits.
- ◆ Throughout the assessment, the child's family are active participants.
- ◆ The team provides a detailed written report with recommendations, including
 - ◆ Mealtime program with feeding strategies
 - ◆ Adaptive equipment
 - ◆ Referral and assistance in locating appropriate community resources
- ◆ NM SAFE Pediatric team can provide 1-2 follow up visits after the evaluation to support your child's progress.



Photo author: U.S. Department of Agriculture

NM SAFE Pediatric Clinic services are provided at no cost to families. Medicaid or private insurance will be billed if available.