

## Tube Feeding Procedure

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### Gravity feeding with a bag:

1. Thoroughly wash your hands and dry them with a paper towel.
2. Gather any equipment you will need.
3. Premeasure the formula.
4. Have your child sit upright, at least at a 45-degree angle.
5. Close the clamp on the feeding bag and pour the formula into the bag.
6. Hang the bag two or three feet above your child's stomach.
7. Place a cup at the end of the feeding bag tube and open the clamp. Run the food through the tube until it enters the cup to get any air out of the bag.
8. Close the clamp.
9. Open the plug at the end of your child's tube and insert the adapter if needed.
10. Check the tube placement and the residual (how much food is left in the stomach) if instructed to do so.
11. Flush the feeding tube with 30–60 mL of water before feeding to prevent clogging.
12. Connect the feeding bag tubing to your child's tube or adapter, making sure it won't separate. Taping the connection may also help keep the tubes together.
13. Unclamp your child's feeding tube and slowly open the clamp on the feeding bag tubing.
14. Check the bag every 15 minutes and adjust the bag height or the clamp accordingly, depending on the speed of the flow.
15. When the bag is empty, close the clamp and disconnect the feeding bag.
16. Flush your child's feeding tube with 30–60 mL of water.
17. Have your child continue to sit upright for an hour after feeding.
18. Follow manufacturer's guidelines for rinsing and disposal of the gravity bag.

## Maintenance

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### How to remove a clog from your child's feeding tube:

1. Try to remove as much fluid as possible with a syringe—this fluid should be discarded.
2. Fill a clean syringe with 10 mL of warm water.
3. Using the syringe, gently pump the plunger back and forth, taking care not to force water into the tube.
4. If the clog doesn't clear, clamp the tube for five to 15 minutes and repeat.
5. If the clog still cannot be dislodged, the tube may need to be replaced. Call your healthcare professional.