

## Tube Feeding Procedure

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### Gravity feeding with a syringe:

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. Check the tube placement and the residual (how much food is left in the stomach) if instructed to do so.
6. Remove the plunger from the syringe and place the tip into the feeding tube.
7. Hold the syringe higher than your child's stomach and pour in premeasured formula.
8. Refill the syringe until the premeasured formula is gone.
9. Allow the formula to flow into the stomach until it is gone (this will take about 20–30 minutes).
10. To quicken the flow, lift the syringe higher; to slow, lower the syringe.
11. When finished, detach the syringe while making sure there isn't backflow.
12. Flush the tube with 30–60 mL of water and close the cap.
13. Have your child continue to sit upright for an hour after feeding.
14. Wash all the equipment in warm, soapy water, rinse thoroughly and air dry.
15. Replace the syringe once a day.

## 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.