

# Using a Feeding Tube Device

## What is A Feeding Tube?

- A device that is medically inserted into the child's stomach or intestines where they will receive much (but not all) of their nutrition.
- Using a feeding tube may or may not be a decision made by the parents depending on the severity of the problem.

## Why May My Child Need a Feeding Tube?

Feeding tubes are used when a child is ill or does not have the ability or strength to breastfeed or bottle-feed such as with many premature babies. There are other reasons as well that may be cause for your child having a feeding tube.

## Types of Feeding Tubes

- NG (nasogastric) – Runs from the nose to the stomach
- G (gastric) Tube – A surgically placed tube directly into the stomach
- NJ (nasojejunal) – Runs from the nose to the intestines
- ND (nasoduodenal) – Runs from the nose to the entrance of the intestines
- GJ (gastric jejunal) – Button is placed and tubing runs into the intestines
- J (jejunal) – Button is placed into the stomach or intestines like the GJ tube

If your baby is premature and needs a feeding tube, unless they are very ill, it will likely be a NG tube placed until they have learned to eat by themselves. In this case pumped breast milk can be inserted into the tube with a syringe. If your baby must leave the hospital with a feeding tube you should be sure that you completely understand how to clean, use, and insert the tubing. When using a tube that requires intravenous feedings you can simply inject the breast milk into the tube. As for those that require continuous feeding from a bag you will likely have to “swoosh” around the milk in the bag when you notice the breast milk begin to separate. When you shake breast milk up it breaks down the living cells that it is made up of and therefore is breaking down all the good stuff found in the milk. DO NOT SHAKE THE MILK. You should follow the guidelines for breast milk storage.



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