

EATING AND DRINKING ABILITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (EDACS)

The EDACS system is used to measure a child's eating and drinking ability. This includes safety (aspiration and choking) when eating and drinking, efficiency (food loss and speed of finishing meal) and the amount of assistance a person needs.

Level I - can independently eat and drink safely and efficiently.

Level II - eats and drinks safely but with some limitations to efficiency.

Level III - eats and drinks with some limitations to safety and there may also be limitations to efficiency. Solids may be difficult to swallow and choking may be a risk.

Level IV – eats and drinks with significant limitations to safety and cannot swallow food and drink without risk of aspiration. Smooth purees and mashed foods can be given through oral feeding.

Level V – unable to eat or drink safely, relies on tube feeding and is at high risk for aspiration.

Levels of assistance

Independent – can bring food and drink to mouth without assistance.

Requiring assistance – can bring food and drink to mouth using adaptive equipment or requires another individual to assist them using adaptive equipment.

Totally dependent - another individual brings food and drink to mouth.