

Some practice dilemmas in SPD

- **Eating and drinking 1**

Management of eating with some ASD pupils can be difficult. Preference for a very restricted diet can be common in this condition. How much these children should be encouraged to try food outside of their normal range at meal times, especially if this involves initially physically feeding a child who is refusing, can be a difficult judgement to make. Parents are often anxious about a very restricted diet and will request the school to encourage a wider food range.

- **Eating and drinking 2**

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- **Eating and drinking 3**

When and where tube feeding through a 'peg' should take place needs discussion. Some parents and/or staff may feel this is a more private medical activity which should take place with a degree of privacy while other may take the opposite view that this is a part of the CYP's daily life and that it should, if possible, take place in a social eating situation.

- **Personal care**

How many and which adults carry out personal care for a particular CYP can create dilemmas. Most who require hoisting will need more than one adult in order to match the risk assessment but clearly the number of adults must be kept as low as possible. These CYP are likely to require personal care throughout their life and it is an important life skills that they learn to work with a number of carers. However, if a CYP expresses difficulty in relating to a particular adult in this role at any time then this must be respected.

- **Working with families**

Parents may ask that the school assist in teaching or encouraging a reluctant adolescent to shower in order to support personal hygiene. While schools want to assist families this is not an appropriate use of physical handling in the behaviour sense. There must be clearly established parameters about what staff can and cannot do in such situations.

- **Dressing and undressing**

In order to save time in a busy day some staff or parents may feel it is appropriate to put on a coat backwards for a wheelchair user so that they do not have to be hoisted into and out of seating. Others will feel this is demeaning to the CYP and completely unacceptable.

