

FEEDING THERAPY: The Right Support Team Makes a Big Difference

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Feeding therapy can be hard for many patients and their families. But having the right support team in place helps to make the process easier and successful in the end! The feeding program at our center includes a multidisciplinary team of specialists consisting of a GI specialist, nutritionist, speech pathologist, behaviorist, occupational therapist and chef services to ensure the patient and families are supported throughout the therapy process. This includes learning to eat new foods while they are in the therapy session as well as in the home environment.

Our program is lead by **Dr. Celia Padron, a pediatric gastroenterologist and medical director** of our program. We also accept referrals and work with many other GI specialists and pediatricians in the area to help their patients improve their feeding skills as well. A

pediatric gastroenterologist treats the gastrointestinal tract, liver and pancreas of children from infancy until age eighteen and provides overall medical management for the feeding disorder when needed.

Another very important member of our team is the **nutritionist, Kelly Dorfman**. Kelly wrote the book *Cure Your Child with Food* and provides nutrition consultations and follow-ups as needed. Kelly explains that nutrition works in two ways; Take out what's irritating the patient and close the gap of nutritional deficiency by giving appropriate supplements to heal the gut lining and improve the neurological and immune systems. Please visit her website for more information www.cureyourchildwithfood.com.

The speech pathologist is a very important part of the program. I assess the oral motor structures and functions and work with the patient to improve variety, texture and volume of solid, liquids and saliva swallows through a number of oral motor and behavioral techniques.

The behaviorist is needed in many cases to help with behavior related issues that many families encounter at home. **Rael LaPenta**, our Relationship Development Interventions (RDI) specialist leads our behavior program in the home getting the children to carry over what they have learned in the therapy session to their home environment. You can read more about her program in an article in this newsletter on page 5.

The occupational therapist, **Kate Guzzetti**, OTR/L, SIPT helps with improving sensory integration, fine motor, seating and other motor related difficulties.

www.klgpeds.com.

And finally, to further support our families, we have available at our center the culinary expertise of **Chef Mitch!** On April 30th, Chef Mitch gave a full day presentation to all our patients and staff. It was a big hit and everyone enjoyed a sample of many food items he prepares for people in their homes. This is a wonderful support system for many of our patients who need some extra help preparing healthy foods for their families to have on hand on a regular basis or just to even out their weekly schedules. He specializes in gluten free, dairy free and a number of other food allergies and/or sensitivities that many people suffer from today.

Chef Mitch also provides in home cooking lessons so now our patients have all the tools they need for helping to maintain healthy eating habits for their families!
<http://www.mitchsmagnificentmeals.com>

Photos from Chef Mitch's

All-Day Tasting Event that was held on April 30th!



Chef Mitch has been a professional chef for 30 years since graduating from the Philadelphia Restaurant School in 1984.

Chef Mitch has experience in corporate dining, kosher dining and has 20 years training in healthcare.

Chef Mitch is a Certified Dietary Manager (CDM-CFPP) and can meet all your Dietary Needs.



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