Key words: Eating and drinking aids



Term	Definition	lmage
Aspiration	Aspiration happens when food, drink or saliva is breathed into the airway instead of swallowed. This can cause coughing, choking, difficulty breathing and infections in the lungs.	
Choking	Choking happens when a piece of food becomes stuck in the airway. Signs of choking include coughing, holding the throat, difficulty breathing or speaking, and blue lips or face.	
Coordination	The ability to move smoothly, accurately and in a controlled way.	
Cutlery	Aids used when eating, to cut food or to move food from container into a person's mouth. May include spoons, knives, forks, chopsticks.	
Dehydration	If a person loses too much water or does not eat or drink enough, they can become dehydrated. If the lost water is not replaced, the body does not function well. Dehydration can be a serious problem.	
Hand function	The ability to use the hand for activities. For example: writing, carrying things, food preparation, and sewing.	
Health professional	Health professionals include people such as nurses, doctors, dietitians, health workers and others who have recognised qualifications to diagnose, treat and prevent illness, injury and other physical or mental impairments.	
Self care	Self care means looking after oneself. TAP focuses on the self care activities a person carries out every day to look after their basic personal needs. For example: washing, going to the toilet, getting dressed, eating and drinking.	