


## What is a Gastrostomy?

? Question	💡 Answer	Your tasks	Yes !
<p>What is a gastrostomy?</p>	<p>1. A surgical procedure. 2. A feeding tube placed into the stomach through a stoma on the tummy.</p> <p><u>Key terms</u> Stoma: An opening surgically made on the tummy.</p>	<p>Choose someone you would like to talk to about gastrostomy with and tell them about it.</p> <p><b>Remember to say:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a tube placed directly into the stomach through an opening on the tummy.</li> <li>• It involves surgery.</li> </ul>	
<p>Why is a gastrostomy recommended?</p>	<p>Unsafe swallowing: Difficulty coordinating swallowing with breathing results in both happening at the same time.</p> <p><u>Key terms</u> Dysphagia: Difficulty swallowing. Aspiration: Food goes into the windpipe.</p>	<p>Talk about the most common reason for gastrostomy.</p> <p>You could say: <i>"Breathing and swallowing can get mixed up, so food goes down the wrong way into the breathing tubes"</i></p>	
<p>Are there other options?</p>	<p>Nasogastric tube feeding gives short term support of around 6- 8 weeks. It does not involve surgery.</p>	<p>Tell your helper that the nasogastric tube is a short-term method of supporting feeding.</p>	
<p>What are other reasons for gastrostomy?</p>	<p>Gastrostomy is recommended when longer term support is needed.</p> <p>Some children need extra nutritional support or calories for growth.</p> <p>The gastrostomy can be used to release excess air from the stomach in some children. This is called "venting".</p>	<p>Tell your helper why gastrostomy is recommended for your child.</p> <p><b>An example could be:</b> <i>"My child needs long-term gastrostomy support because they have difficulty swallowing food or medications, or having enough to drink".</i></p>	
<p>Can my child eat normally when using a gastrostomy?</p>	<p>Yes, if it is safe, children can take food by mouth even when they have a gastrostomy.</p>	<p>If your child does not have problems with swallowing, they can still eat food if they choose to.</p>	
<p>Now you know what a gastrostomy is, and why it is recommended!</p>			



Working together