

Nasogastric (NG) Feeding Tube: Checking placement - a guide for parents/caregivers



Before each feeding, check that the NG tube is in the right place. If the tube is not in the stomach, food could go into the throat or lungs and harm your child.

Always wash your hands before checking placement.

You must see these 3 signs to check that the tube is in the stomach.	
1. Mark	<p>The tube was measured and marked at the spot where it should come out of the nose.</p> <p>✓ If the tube is in the right place, the mark is at your child's nose.</p> <p>✗ If the mark isn't by your child's nose – do not feed your child.</p>
2. Fluid	<p>Attach an empty 10 ml syringe to the connector of the NG tube. Pull back the plunger to get 0.5 to 1 ml of stomach fluid into the syringe. Remove the syringe from the NG tube. Look at the colour of the fluid.</p> <p>✓ If the tube is in the right place, the stomach fluid will look clear, cloudy or yellow. It may also look like your child's feed.</p> <p>✗ If the fluid is a different colour – do not feed your child.</p>
3. pH	<p>Push the plunger slightly to put a drop of stomach fluid on all the coloured boxes of the pH strip. Compare the colour of the boxes to the pH scale on the pH strip storage container.</p> <p>✓ If the tube is in the right place, the pH will be 5.5 or less.</p> <p>✗ If the pH is 6 or more – do not feed your child.</p>

If you have any other concerns about the NG tube placement or your child is gagging, retching, or having trouble breathing – do not go ahead with the feeding. Call your health care team.