**Challenging Scenarios for Trained Feeding Assistants**

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| **Scenario** | **Potential Strategies** |
| The resident is not chewing their food. | * Gently touch the underside of the chin and verbally remind them to chew. If the resident doesn’t respond and continue to hold food, notify the nurse.
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| The resident forgets to swallow. | * Remind the resident to swallow.
* Feel the resident’s cheek and chin for swallowing before offering the next bite.
* Notify the nurse and/ or speech therapist to assess for swallowing problems.
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| The resident eats too fast. | * Offer food items separately
* Use smaller utensils or cups
* Set utensils down between bites
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| The resident eats too slow. | * Provide verbal cues
* Serve the resident first (beginning of the meal) to allow more time
* Use insulated dishes to assure proper food temperatures
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| The resident eats non-edible items. | * Remove all non-edible items from the table (i.e., paper napkins, straws, straw wrappers)
* Provide finger foods
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| The resident is combative and throwing food. | * Identify cause of resident’s agitation and remove if possible.
* Trained Feeding Assistant should sit on resident’s non-dominant side.
* Provide non-breakable dishes with suction holder.
* Give resident one food at a time.
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| The resident paces during mealtime. | * Sit beside the resident at the table when the tray is ready to be served.
* Give finger foods while resident is pacing
* Use rituals such as same piece of music, saying grace or singing to remind the resident to stay seated until food is served.
* Give the resident something to drink immediately after the resident sits down at the table.
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| The resident seems paranoid. | * Serve food in closed containers
* Do not mix foods together
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| The resident refuses to open her mouth | * Offer fluids or something sweet
* Notify supervisor. Resident may need to have chewing/ swallowing evaluated
* Never force feed or pry open a resident’s mouth when it is clamped shut.
* Attempt to verbally cue the resident
* Offer alternative foods or fluids
* Have another staff member attempt to feed the resident
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| The resident forgets that he/ she has eaten | * Give the resident a snack then report to the charge nurse
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