**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. |
| 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. |
| The resident eats too fast. | * Offer food items separately * Use smaller utensils or cups * Set utensils down between bites |
| 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 |
| The resident eats non-edible items. | * Remove all non-edible items from the table (i.e., paper napkins, straws, straw wrappers) * Provide finger foods |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| The resident seems paranoid. | * Serve food in closed containers * Do not mix foods together |
| 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 |
| The resident forgets that he/ she has eaten | * Give the resident a snack then report to the charge nurse |