

Abilitations®

Abili-Bear Product Guide

Item #2102522

Introduction

Eating and swallowing are complex behaviors involving volitional and reflexive activities of more than 30 nerves and muscles. Straw drinking typically occurs when a child is around 11 months old. Learning efficient oral motor skills is important to develop the muscles needed for eating, drinking and speech. Some children may struggle to master straw drinking. Abili-Bear was designed to help children learn to coordinate the suck swallow breath pattern more efficiently.

For use under supervision of a feeding specialist, such as an occupational therapist or speech and language pathologist.

Includes one cap, one bear and three, bite-resistant tube straws. Hand wash all pieces using one part bleach to 10 parts water solution.



Product Use

- Use under the guidance of an Occupational Therapist (OT) or Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) for a more specific or custom protocol as needed.
- Wash all parts before using. Insert the straw through the cap then fill the bear with desired fluid. It would be best to practice fluid control above a sink first!
- Press on the belly of the bear to bring the fluid toward the top of the tube. Maintain enough pressure to keep the tube in the tube while the child then tries to draw it into their mouth. If lip, cheek or jaw control is weak you can gently push the final amount through the tube into the mouth. Be sure the child is in an upright/most functional position with adequate trunk/foot support to prevent any couging/choking/aspiration.
- Once the child is able to draw fluid from the top of the tube, slowly decrease the amount of liquid you pump and hold into the tube until the child learns to draw the fluid the entire length of the tube.
- Once the tube fluid drinking is mastered, you can switch to a regular straw as needed before graduating to a regular cup/straw. Avoid the use of sippy cups as these may not be helpful in reinforcing the suck-swallow-breathe pattern.
- Congratulations! Your child can now drink independently from a straw!