

Adaptive eating devices

My preceptor at Oak ridge rehabilitation and healthcare center helped me set up a shadowing with the occupational therapist (OT). During my shadowing the OT reviews adaptive eating devices with me, a strong communication between the OT, Speech Language Pathologists, and the RD is needed. This is due to the goal of patient's maintaining their weight, achieving adequate intakes, and make sure that they are dependant to eat and drink. Adaptive eating devices include plate, bowls, cups, and utensils were available to train the patients to use them and educate their families on how to use it and to make them available for their patients.

I specifically saw the OT use a Kennedy Cup, lipped plate with the patient. A lipped plate has rims to allow for scooping and decreased spillage. I also saw the weighted utensils being utilized. Weighted utensils help patients with tremors. Other adaptive eating devices include double handed cups, proval cups, suction bowls, and partition plates. Occupational therapy requires great attention to detail and unique ways for the patient to achieve greater consumption. Below you will see pictures of the adaptive eating devices I saw being utilized during my shadowing experience.

