

chewy tubes™

& JAW REHABILITATION PROGRAM



A step-by-step program
for developing biting &
chewing skills



chewy tubes™

The innovative Oral Motor Device to develop biting and chewing skills

The Family of Chewy Tubes™



Yellow (Smooth)

The Yellow Chewy Tube is used with a smaller jaw, typically an infant 9–10 months old. It can also be used with an individual who cannot open the jaw very wide.

The Yellow Chewy Tube features a narrow stem 9.5mm OD.



Red (smooth)

The Red Chewy Tube is used normally with toddlers – it has a wider stem 12.7 mm OD. This tube can also be used by children who are receptive to oral tactile stimulation or with adults who have a larger jaw.



Green (knobby)

The Green knobby Chewy Tube has been designed to increase sensory input by means of the raised dots on the shaft. The shaft diameter is 15mm OD. The Green knobby Chewy Tube is slightly harder to chew on when compared with Yellow and Red Chewy Tubes.



Blue (smooth)

The Blue Chewy Tube is intended for adolescent or adult size jaw. It is the largest and firmest of the Chewy Tubes. Adults with developmental disabilities and adolescent with autism or sensory integration disorders may wish to use this larger size.



Red Super Chew

The Red knobby Super Chew has been designed to provide positive oral stimulation for practicing biting and chewing skills. The Super Chew features a closed loop handle which is easily grasped by little fingers. The bitable stem of the Red Super Chew has a knobby textured surface.



Green Super Chew

The Green Super Chew has been designed to provide positive oral stimulation for practicing biting and chewing skills. The Super Chew features a closed loop handle which is easily grasped by little fingers. The bitable stem of the Green Super Chew has a smooth surface.

All the tube handles have corrugated ridges to assist the grasp – especially useful for those who are visually impaired.

What are Chewy Tubes?

- Chewy Tubes are innovative oral motor devices designed to provide a resilient, non-food, chewable surface for practicing biting and chewing skills. Chewy Tubes have been designed to be used with the new Jaw Rehabilitation Program, a patented methodology offered by Speech Pathology Associates, LLC to develop jaw motion for biting and chewing skills.
- Chewy Tubes offer a safe, non-toxic surface for developing biting and chewing skills. Chewy Tubes are latex-free and lead-free. In addition, they do not contain PVC or phthalates.
- Chewy Tubes are available in 2 fun and attractive colors. Yellow Chewy Tubes offer a smaller stem size for chewing while Red Chewy Tubes offer a slightly wider stem size. Chewy Tubes colors are all FDA compliant and CE marked.

Who can use them?

- Chewy Tubes are offered to children and adults as a safe and effective tool for practicing biting and chewing skills.
- Therapists may select Chewy Tubes for use in treatment of individuals who are developing initial oral motor skills, or rehabilitating the jaw after surgery, trauma or stroke.
- Youngsters seeking additional proprioceptive input into the jaw may also like biting on Chewy Tubes.

Children with autism require professional supervision when using Chewy Tubes. Chewy Tubes are intended for individual use; with adult supervision.

NOTE: Chewy Tubes are not recommended for use with children under 7 months of age.

How are they used?

Chewy Tubes are offered for tactile input at the loci of the molar dentition/molar gum region as follows:

- 1) Present one Chewy Tube laterally into the mouth
 - 2) Touch the stem of the Chewy Tube to the cutting surface of the molar teeth/gum
 - 3) Help improve jaw stability and provide valuable sensory input into the jaw through biting on a Chewy Tube
- Chewy Tubes should always be used with supervision. Assessment of the jaw is recommended prior to biting on Chewy Tubes. Patients should follow the recommendations of their therapist or caregiver when using Chewy Tubes.

P&Q Chewing Aids

The P&Q chewing aids provide an extra tool in the rehabilitation program. Both these devices provide more resistance than the Chewy Tubes, as they do not easily compress when chewing or biting takes place.

The Q is wide enough for bi-lateral chewing activities and the P is especially easy to grasp by small fingers or those with low muscle tone.



JAW REHABILITATION PROGRAM

An innovative solution for oral motor treatment

The Jaw Rehabilitation Program is a patented step-by-step series of goals and objectives designed to develop biting and chewing skills. The Jaw Rehabilitation Program offers a sequenced progression of treatment exercises to initiate and strengthen mandibular function needed for successful mastication skill.

Progress can be easily documented by recording the last short-term objective achieved by the patient at each session.

The Jaw Rehabilitation Program is appropriate for individuals with the following diagnoses:

- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Cleft Palate
- Craniofacial abnormality
- Down Syndrome
- Stroke
- Dyspraxia
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Neuromuscular Disorders
- Dysarthria

Patient Uses

The Jaw Rehabilitation Program is used effectively with patients...

- who are delayed in developing oral motor function for biting and chewing skills
- to coordinate vertical movement of the jaw with placement of the bolus laterally
- to develop symmetrical and repetitive mandibular function for mastication of firmer textures
- to help transition from enteral feeding to oral feeding



A step-by-step series of oral motor treatment goals and objectives

Goals:

- Develop adequate mastication, safe swallowing of a bolus
- Prevent danger of choking, blockage of the airway
- Develop oral motor function for improved oral hygiene i.e. management of saliva

Purpose:

- Initiate pre-biting mandibular movement in response to tactile stimulation
- Develop repetitive jaw excursion and closure skill
- Refine rhythmical vertical biting motion

When Used:

- Transition patients from gastrostomy feeding tube to oral feeding
- Transition patients from pureed diet to soft mechanical bolus
- Teach patients to initiate up/down pattern of jaw movement (pre-biting skill)
- Increase number of up/down cycles of jaw motion
- Strengthen inadequate muscle function for mastication





JAW REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Seven Levels of Treatment

The Jaw Rehabilitation Program is comprised of seven levels of treatment. Two long-term goals are specified for each level. Each long-term goal is subdivided into several short-term objectives which lead to the successful outcome of the long-term goal.

Levels I & II

Target development of pre-requisite sensory and motor skills needed for biting and chewing behavior.

Levels III & IV

Target the development of initial motor patterns of repetitive vertical jaw movement gradually building on these skills toward higher level abilities.

Levels V, VI & VII

Target development of more mature patterns of extended rhythmical and repetitive excursion/closure biting motion.

Assessment Forms

The Jaw Assessment Form offers a thorough guide on which to document a patient's pre- and post-treatment level of function. The components of the Jaw Assessment Form include:

- Structural integrity
- Range of motion
- Dentition/alignment
- Functional movement
- Quality of motion
- Food texture

Outcomes for Home Practice

The Jaw Rehabilitation Program can provide a quick reference of outcomes and exercises for patient practice at home. Family members and caregivers can be assigned exercises under the direction of the Speech Language Therapist.

Chewy Tubes are an integral part of the Jaw Rehabilitation Program. All treatment activities presented in the Jaw Rehabilitation Program are implemented with Chewy Tubes, eliminating the need for actual food presentation.

Each Jaw Rehabilitation Program Kit includes:

- Jaw Rehabilitation Program Manual
- 8 Chewy Tubes (3 Yellow, stem size 9.5mm, 3 Red, stem size 12.7mm, 1 Green knobby, stem size 15mm) and 1 P and 1 Q pack
- 2 Jaw Assessment Forms



Chewy
Tubes



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