



4 PUREED



Level 4 Pureed Food for Babies and Children

What is this food texture level?

Level 4 – Pureed Foods:

- ✓ Are usually eaten with a spoon
- ✓ Do **not** require chewing
- ✓ Have a smooth texture with no lumps
- ✓ Hold shape on a spoon
- ✓ Fall off a spoon in a single spoonful when tilted
- ✓ Are NOT sticky
- ✓ Liquid (like sauces) must not separate from solids



Why is this food texture level used for babies and children?

Level 4 – Pureed Food may be used if your child is not able to bite or chew food or if your child’s tongue control is reduced. Pureed foods only need the tongue to be able to move forward and back to bring the food to the back of the mouth for swallowing.

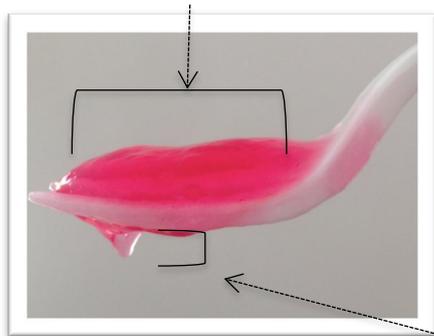
It’s important that puree foods are not too sticky because this can cause the food to stick to the cheeks, teeth, roof of the mouth or in the throat. Pureed foods are best eaten using a spoon.

How do I test my food to make sure it is Level 4 Pureed?

It is safest to test Pureed Food using the IDDSI Fork Drip Test *and* the IDDSI Spoon Tilt Test.

See videos of the IDDSI Fork Drip Test and IDDSI Spoon Tilt Test at www.IDDSI.org/framework/food-testing-methods/

Extremely thick liquids sit in a mound or pile above the fork



IDDSI Fork Drip Test

Liquid does **not** dollop, or drip continuously through the fork prongs

A small amount may flow through and form a tail below the fork



IDDSI Spoon Tilt Test

Sample holds its shape on the spoon and falls off fairly easily if the spoon is tilted or lightly flicked

Sample should **not** be firm or sticky

Pureed food must pass both tests!

Intended for general information only

Please consult with your health care professional for specific advice for your baby or child



4 PUREED



For safety, **AVOID** these food textures that pose a choking risk for babies and children who need Level 4 Pureed food

Food characteristic to AVOID	Examples of foods to AVOID
Mixed thin + thick textures	Soup with pieces of food, cereal with milk
Hard or dry food	Nuts, raw vegetables (e.g. carrot, cauliflower, broccoli), dry cakes, bread, dry cereal
Tough or fibrous foods	Steak, pineapple
Chewy	Lollies/candies/sweets, cheese chunks, marshmallows, chewing gum, sticky mashed potato, dried fruits, sticky foods
Crispy	Crackling, crisp bacon, cornflakes
Crunchy food	Raw carrot, raw apple, popcorn
Sharp or spiky	Corn chips and crisps
Crumbly bits	Dry cake crumble, dry biscuits
Pips, seeds	Apple seeds, pumpkin seeds, white of an orange
Food with skins or outer shell	Peas, grapes, chicken skin, salmon skin, sausage skin
Foods with husks	Corn, shredded wheat, bran
Bone or gristle	Chicken bones, fish bones, other bones, meat with gristle
Round, long shaped food	Sausage, grape
Sticky or gummy food	Nut butter; overcooked oatmeal/porridge, edible gelatin, konjac containing jelly, sticky rice cakes
Stringy food	Beans, rhubarb
Floppy foods	Lettuce, cucumber, uncooked baby spinach leaves
Crust formed during cooking or heating	Crust or skin that forms on food during cooking or after heating, for example, cheese topping, mashed potato
'Floppy' food	Lettuce, cucumber, baby spinach leaves
'Juicy' food	Where juice separates from the food piece in the mouth, for example watermelon
Visible lumps	Lumps in pureed food or yoghurt
Extra Clinician notes	

Intended for general information only. Please consult with your health care professional for specific advice for your baby or child