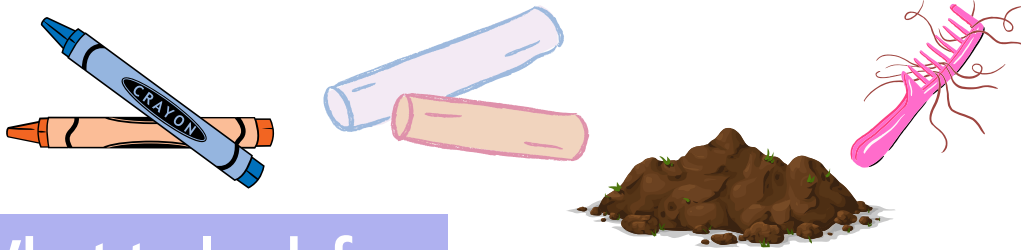


Is your child showing signs of pica?

What is pica?

Pica (PIE-kuh) is defined as an eating disorder in which a person eats things not usually considered food which can cause health problems.

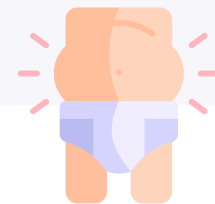


Items eaten include:

- Dirt
- Clay
- Rocks
- Paper
- Ice
- Crayons
- Hair
- Paint chips
- Chalk
- Feces (poop)

What to look for

- Malnutrition
- Iron deficiency
- If a child has developmental problems
- Child is placing non-food items in mouth and between the ages 2-6
- Can also be seen in pregnant women
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Mouth or teeth injuries
- Abdominal pains



Treatment

Conditions can randomly go away. If there is an intellectual impairment, the issue may persist for an extended period of time. Medical care may be needed if symptoms are present.

