

- Find the point on the chart where the line for the child's weight meets the line for the child's age.

Decide where the point is in relation to the curves:

- If the point is below the bottom most (-3SD) curve, the child is severely underweight.
- If the point is between 2nd and 3rd curve or exactly on the 3rd curve, the child is moderately underweight.
- If the point is on or above the curve marked zero or between the curve zero and -2SD (second curve) or exactly on the 2nd curve, then the child is normal.

Community Level Care for a Malnourished Child

All children who are underweight, should receive the following:

1. Nutritional counselling as discussed earlier
 2. Prompt treatment for all illnesses
 3. Periodic weight measurement to ensure weight gain and detect worsening early.
- (a) De-worming tabs (Albendazole): Half tablet of albendazole for a child less than two years old and one tablet for all children above two.
(see Annexure-6)
- (b) Paediatric Iron and Folic Acid Tablets: Daily one for three months.
- (c) A dose of Vitamin A: If this has not been given.

Remember:



Those children who are moderately underweight, should be taken to a 24X7 PHC or higher facility for a medical consultation. Children who are severely malnourished need prompt hospitalisation in a centre which manages such children. This is often the District Hospital.