

What to Do in an Airway Emergency When Your Child Has a Tracheostomy Tube

What should I do if my child is having trouble breathing, or their oxygen saturations are low?

First- Check the neck to make sure the tracheostomy (trach) tube is in place. If the trach tube is out, try to put it back in.

- If it won't go in the stoma, try to place a size smaller trach tube.
- If you cannot place the size smaller trach tube, provide resuscitation breaths and call 911. If there is no pulse, begin CPR.

Second- If the trach tube is in place, **try to suction it:**

- If you cannot pass the suction catheter, change the trach tube.
 - Remember the phrase: "When in doubt, change it out."
- If your child is still in distress after suctioning, change the trach tube.
 - Remember the phrase: "When in doubt, change it out."
- If your child continues to have problems with breathing, provide resuscitation breaths and call 911. If there is no pulse, begin CPR.

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