

TRACHEOSTOMY TEACHING PACKAGE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ASSESSMENT

Child's Name:	
Parent /Carer's Name:	
Date Started:	
Date Completed:	



This document is to be kept in the child's medical records and copy given to parents or carers.







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Introduction

Being a parent or carer of a child with a tracheostomy can be a daunting prospect at first. You may feel that you want your child's nurse to take care of your child completely for the time being, or you may feel that you need more information, or that you wish to be more involved in your child's care. This pack offers a training programme so that you can learn new skills in order to feel more confident in caring for your child's tracheostomy, if and when the time is right for you.

It is very important that you do not feel pressurised into learning new skills. Your nurse will support you through this process and will answer any questions that you may have.

Aim of the pack

This pack has been developed to help you and your nurses to:

- Identify your learning needs
- Plan training to meet your needs
- Record your training
- Assess what you have learnt

Assessment of your needs

Your nurse will discuss with you and complete the 'assessment of your needs' form which is on the next page. This will help your child's nurses to know what you need and enable them to support you in your learning. You may want to learn some skills now and some later. Skills can be learnt in any order and at a time that is best for you and your nurse. You may wish to arrange a review date for topics you want to learn later.

On completion of the training pack you will be able to complete all aspects of tracheostomy care unsupervised. This will enable you to care for your child's tracheostomy and also give you the option to take them off the ward for periods during the day. Home leave can also be arranged once training is complete in preparation for discharge.

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ASSESSMENT OF YOUR NEEDS FORM

Date	Need of Parent / Carer	Yes	No	Action Plan / Comments	Review	Parent's Carer	Nurse's Signature
					Date	Signature	
	I need more information about why						
	my child has a tracheostomy.						
	I need more information about						
	tracheostomies.						
	I would like to learn new skills so						
	that I can be involved in my child's						
	care.						
	I would like to learn how to wash my						
	hands correctly according to hospital						
	policy.						
	I would like to learn how to assess						
	my child's breathing.						
	I would like to learn how to perform						
	suction according to hospital policy.						
	I would like to learn how to change						
	my child's tracheostomy tapes.						
	I would like to learn how to change						
	my child's tracheostomy tube.						

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TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT OF SKILLS - HOW TO USE THIS PART OF THE PACK

Aim of this section:

The following section provides a training programme that aims to help you to learn new skills so that you can safely care for your child with a tracheostomy. Skills can be learnt in any order and at a time that is best for you and your nurse.

Objectives:

When you feel ready, your nurses will:

- Discuss and show you how to perform new skills
- Support and observe you as you practice new skills. You may need to practice some skills more often than others.
- Your nurse will discuss your progress with you.
- Your nurse will tell you, and document in your pack, when you are able to perform a skill safely without being observed.

This part of the pack is split into the following sections:

- 1. Checking emergency equipment.
- 2. Assessment of your child's breathing.
- 3. Suctioning.
- 4. Routine tracheostomy care.
- 5. Changing the tracheostomy tube.
- 6. Basic life support.

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For each section there is information on what to do, how to do it, and why it is necessary. This is followed by the assessment document.

What the wording means

Discussed/ observed.

The procedure is explained to you by your child's nurse and /or you have watched the nurse perform the procedure.

Practiced

You have performed the procedure while being closely watched and guided by your child's nurse. You should have at least two practice sessions with each procedure. It is important that you learn new skills at your own rate and that you don't feel pressured or rushed into learning at a faster rate. You may also find that you need further support and training if you have not practiced a new skill for some time. This is not a problem. It is important that you let your nurses know your concerns and they will help you.

For your child's safety you should never practice without a nurse watching you closely.

Your nurses will tell you, and document in your pack, when you are safe to perform a skill safely on your own.

Safe to practice unsupervised

This means that your nurses have assessed you as being safe to perform the procedure without being observed, supported or prompted, and that you understand the reasons for the procedure. It is important that both you and your nurse sign and date the document as it is evidence that you have achieved a safe standard. If however you feel at a later date that you need more help and support, please let your nurses know so that they can help you. It is easy to forget or feel frightened by something if you have not had the opportunity to practice it for a while.

When on a ward it is important to tell your nurse when you are about to perform a procedure—your nurse can then be available to help you if necessary.

Abbreviations

PICU: Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

PHDU: Paediatric High Dependency Unit.

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TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT OF SKILLS CHECKING EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT: INFORMATION

It is important that the following equipment is within easy reach at all times as it may be needed in an emergency, such as if your child's tracheostomy tube becomes blocked or falls out.

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Check emergency equipment	Make sure the following stored together in a box and is within easy reach at all times:	Emergency equipment must be in good
	Ambu bag if required (yes/no)	working order and within reach in case
	Tracheostomy tubes:	it is needed quickly. It is needed to help
	1 x same size,	you child breathe in an emergency.
	1 x size smaller, both taped.	
	Scissors	
	Lubricating Jelly	
Check suction equipment	Suction unit and suction catheters.	



CHECKING EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Parent to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Nurse to date & sign
Demonstrate how to check and use the Ambu										
bag if required (yes/no)										
Demonstrate how to use the suction unit										
Demonstrate how to put gloves on correctly										
for the first week non sterile and sterile										
Demonstrate checking tracheostomy tubes										
and equipment										



ASSESSMENT OF YOUR CHILD'S BREATHING: INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Assessment of your child's	Look at your child's colour, chest movement, and rate of breathing. Oxygen saturation	It is important to recognise signs of
breathing	levels will be monitored in all areas. This can be useful at detecting the amount of	change in your child's condition.
	oxygen in your child's blood although it can be misleading if the probe is not attached	Increases in your child's work of
	correctly.	breathing may indicate a chest infection
	Listen to your child's breathing. Does it sound noisy?	or blocked tube.
	Can you hear secretions?	
	Feel your child's chest with your hand. Can you feel secretions?	

ASSESSMENT OF YOUR CHILD'S BREATHING: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Parent to date & sign	to practic upervised to date &
Observation of child's colour, chest										
movement, rate of breathing, and sounds										
of breathing										
List signs of breathing difficulties										
List signs of the need for suction										

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CHANGING YOUR CHILD'S POSITION: INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Change your child's position	Turn your child from side to side when in bed or lying down. Help them to sit up as often	Change in position helps your child to
regularly if they are not able	as possible when awake.	clear secretions and helps all areas of
to move around		the lungs to be inflated with air.
	Encourage your child to cough if he or she is able to.	Coughing will help to clear secretions
		so more air can enter the lungs.
	Your physiotherapist will show you how to do any specific chest physiotherapy if your	Physiotherapy helps to clear secretions
	child needs it.	from the lung, helps more air to enter,
		and may help to treat a chest infection.

CHANGE YOUR CHILD'S POSITION: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Parent to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Nurse to date & sign
Demonstrate correct positioning of child during										
turns										
State when child's position should be changed										
Discuss any specific chest physiotherapy that										
has been prescribed for your child by the										
physiotherapist. (To be discussed, and										
assessed if necessary, by the physiotherapist)										

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SUCTION: INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Suction	Tell your child's nurse that you are about to suction your child.	This ensures that your nurse is able to
	Turn the suction unit on and check that it is working and set to the correct suction	assist you if you have difficulties or if
	pressures (start with low pressure, increase as required):	your child's condition changes.
	 Neonate (0 - 4 weeks): 60 – 80mmHg 	Too high a pressure can remove too
	 Infant (5weeks to 1 year): - 80-100mmHg 	much air from your child's lungs.
	 Child (1 – 11 years): 100 – 150mmHg 	
	Teenager: 100-200mmHg	
	Wash your hands with soap and hot water.	Reduces the risk of infection.
	Tell your child what you are going to do.	Helps to reduce your child's anxiety.
	If in first 7 days put non-sterile gloves on each hand.	Protects you from your child's
		secretions.
	Attach an appropriate sized suction catheter to the tubing (catheter size double the size	Keeps the catheter sterile.
	of tracheostomy tube size), keeping it in the wrapper.	K
	If in first 7 days put a sterile glove on your dominant hand.	Keeps the catheter sterile.
		Ensures that the catheter is kept sterile
	Remove the catheter from the wrapper being careful not to touch tip of catheter.	and reduces the risk of infection.
	Disconnect the ventilator tubing or Swedish nose from the tracheostomy tube with your	
	other hand.	
	Hold at premeasured length as per documentation	Premeasured length is no more than
	Insert the catheter into the tracheostomy tube to required length.	1cm below tip of tracheostomy tube.
	Apply suction whilst removing suction catheter over 10-15 second period.	
	Reattach the ventilator tubing or Swedish nose (HME).	Passing the tube too far can cause
	Observe the amount, colour and consistency of the secretions.	trauma.



What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
	Reassess your child's breathing, colour, and sounds of breathing	To assess any changes in your child's
		condition. Secretions are normally loose
		and clear. A change in amount, colour
		or thickness may be a sign of infection.
		Suction may have cleared all the
		secretions, or your child may need
		further suctioning.

SUCTION: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT.

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Parent to date & sign	actice sed late & s
Wash hands effectively using soap and hot										
water.										
Demonstrate preparation of the child and										
equipment.										
State which suction pressure should be used.										
Safely perform suction and observe amount,										
colour and consistency of secretions.										
Reassess child's breathing, colour, and need for further suction.										

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CLEANING THE STOMA (THE SKIN AROUND THE TRACHEOSTOMY OPENING): INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Clean stoma at least twice a	Prepare Equipment	
day to ensure skin is clean	Wash your hands using soap and hot water.	
and dry.	Clean around the stoma site using gauzes and water.	Prevents infection.
1	Ordinary water/Cool Boiled water if skin is intact	Keeps skin in good condition.
	Normasol if skin brown down	
	Dry the skin thoroughly.	
	Apply barrier cream/film	To protect skin from infection and
	If skin intact apply cream	breakdown
	If skin red/broken down apply barrier film	
	Apply appropriate dressing as advised by specialist practitioner.	To relieve pressure and absorb
		exudate/secretions.
	Observe the area for signs of redness, broken skin, and granulation (a build-up of skin	Any problems can be detected and
	tissue). Tell your nursing team if you are concerned about your child's skin.	treated as soon as they occur.



CLEANING THE STOMA: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure									sed	sed
	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Parent to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised Nurse to date & sign
Wash hands effectively using soap and hot	ш њ			ш 2		ш 2	<u> </u>	ш 2	0)	0) 2
water.										
Prepare child and equipment.										
Demonstrate thorough cleaning and drying of										
the skin.										
Demonstrate apply dressing										
State the signs of infection.										



CHANGING THE TRACHEOSTOMY TAPES: INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Change the tracheostomy	Must be done by two people, one of whom must be safe to practice unsupervised.	To maintain your child's safety.
tapes		
	Inform your nurse that you are changing your child's tapes.	To maintain your child's safety.
	Prepare equipment:	
	Emergency equipment – Ambu bag if required (yes/no), suction, spare tubes.	
	Two lengths of tracheostomy tape/Velcro fasteners.	
	Scissors.	
	Water and gauze or similar to clean and dry skin with.	
	Wash your hands.	Reduces the risk of infection.
	Explain to your child what you are about to do.	To reduce your child's anxiety.
	Position your child on his or her back. Extend your child's neck by placing a rolled up	Moves your child's chin out of the way
	pillowcase or towel for example, under the shoulders.	and makes the procedure easier as you
		will be able to see what you are doing.
	One person must hold the tracheostomy tube in position at all times until the new tapes are	To ensure the tube does not fall out.
	finally tied with three knots on each side/Velcro fasteners are secure. The other person cuts	
	the tapes and removes them from the tracheostomy tube.	
	Inspect, wash and dry your child's skin where the tapes were and under the 'arms' of the	
	tracheostomy tube.	
	Apply barrier cream/film	To protect skin from infection and



What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
	If skin intact apply cream	breakdown
	If skin red/broken down apply barrier film	
	Loop the new tapes onto the tube so that each side has a long and a short length of	Changes in condition of the skin can be
	tape/attach Velcro fasteners (your nurse will demonstrate this to you).	detected and treated promptly
		Encured the tapes are tied on the side of
	Pass the long piece behind your child's neck and tie it to the short piece on the opposite	Ensures the tapes are tied on the side of
	side. Tie it in a single knot and a bow or pass the Velcro fastener behind child's neck and	your child's neck so the knots can be
	thread through the tube and secure.	seen at all times.
	Repeat this with the remaining long and short tapes	Two tapes are safer than one if one of
	Repeat this with the remaining long and short tapes	them becomes loose
	Apply appropriate dressing as advised by specialist practitioner.	To relieve pressure and absorb
		exudate/secretions.
	With the tracheostomy tube still held in place, remove the neck roll and check the tightness	
	of the tapes. You should be able to get only one finger between your child's neck and the	
	tapes.	
	With the tracheostomy tube still held in place, re-adjust the tightness of the tapes as	If the tapes are too loose the tube could
	required.	fall out. If they are too tight they may
		cause pain, discomfort, swelling and
	Undo the bow on one side, and then knot tapes three times. Repeat on other side. Check	skin breakdown.
	again that the tapes are not too tight or too loose/ undo Velcro fastener readjust and secure.	
	The person holding the tube can now let go.	



CHANGING THE TRACHEOSTOMY TAPES: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice	unsupervised Parent to date & sign	a)	unsupervised Nurse to date & sign
Wash hands effectively using soap and hot												
water.												
Prepare child and equipment.												
Check that emergency equipment is within												
easy reach and in working order.												
Demonstrate holding the tracheostomy tube												
during changing of the tapes.												
Demonstrate removal of the old tapes.												
Demonstrate cleaning of the stoma and												
checking the site for redness, granulation etc.												
Attach the tracheostomy tapes to the tube.												
Demonstrate tying of the tracheostomy tapes and checking the tightness.												

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CHANGING THE TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE: INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Change the	In hospital, tubes must be changed by two people, one of whom has been	To maintain your child's safety.
tracheostomy tube-	trained and assessed as safe to practice unsupervised. Tracheostomy	
	specialist practitioner/ward staff will teach you how to change a tube on your	
	own in case of an emergency when not in hospital.	
Prepare the equipment.	A clean technique must be used to change the tube. This means keeping	To prevent introducing infection.
	everything as clean as possible and not touching the part of the tracheostomy	
	tube that goes through the stoma.	
	Prepare:	
	A clean area in which to work	To open the stoma if it is difficult to insert the same
	Taped Tracheostomy tubes – one the same size and type as the tube you are	size tube. If this occurs CALL FOR HELP. (In
	replacing and one a size smaller.	hospital: Call a nurse. Out of hospital: other person
	Check introducer inserts and removes easily.	in house/ shops etc or 999.)
I	Lubricate new tube	
	Scissors	The smaller tube is available in case it is difficult to
	Suction equipment	insert the same size tube. If this occurs CALL
	Ambu bag attached to oxygen if required (yes/no)	FOR HELP.
	Water and gauze or similar	The doctor can insert this into the stoma if the
		smaller tracheostomy tube will not fit.
		Helps the tube to slide in easily.
	Wash your hands	
L		



What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Prepare your child	Explain to your child what you are going to do if he or she is old enough to	Your child may find it less stressful if they know
	understand. If your child is a baby, you may find it easier to wrap him or her in a	what is happening.
	blanket to keep the arms still and out of the way	
	Position your child on his or her back with a roll under the shoulders	This will extend your child's neck and lift the chin.
		This makes it easier for you to see the stoma and
		helps open up the hole.
	If your child needs suction, remove the secretions before you cut the tapes	Reduces coughing during the tube change.
Procedure	Hold the old tube with your fingers while the tapes are being cut by the nurse /	To prevent the tube from being coughed out.
	competent helper.	
	Clean neck and stoma (as required)	To prevent infection and breakdown of skin.
	Remove the old tube.	
	Insert the new tube.	
	Remove the introducer if used.	
	This process should only take a few seconds. If you cannot insert the tube	To minimise the risk of the stoma closing.
	easily CALL FOR HELP IMMEDIATELY. (In hospital: Call a nurse. Out of	
	hospital: other person in house/ shops etc or 999.)	
	Tie the tapes as you would when changing the tapes.	

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CHANGING THE TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised	Parent to date & sign Safe to practice	unsupervised Nurse to date & sign
Wash hands effectively using soap and hot											
water.											
Prepare child and equipment. Attach											
tracheostomy tapes to new tube.											
Check that emergency equipment is within											
easy reach and in working order.											
Remove the tracheostomy tube and insert											
new tube. Remove the introducer.											
Tie the tapes and assess the tightness of the											
tapes.											
State what action should be taken if you are											
unable to insert the new tube.											

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BASIC LIFE SUPPORT: INFORMATION

What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
Call for help.	If on the ward, call a nurse. If in the hospital building, send for help from the	Calling for help can save your child's life.
	nearest ward. If in the grounds of the hospital, send for help from a ward. Get	
	someone to use the mobile phone. If out of hospital call 999.	
Check responsiveness.	Call your child's name quite loudly and gently shake or pinch a limb. Do not	Voice and touch may cause your child to breathe. If
	shake your child's head, as this can be dangerous.	no response, quickly move on to the next step.
Open the airway.	Check that the tracheostomy tube is not blocked by performing suction. If there	You will not be able to resuscitate your child if the
	is a blockage (unable to insert suction catheter), quickly change the	tube is blocked.
	tracheostomy tube.	This will open up your child's airway so that you can
	Tilt your child's head back until it is in the 'sniffing' position	get air into the lungs.
		If your child is not breathing you need to quickly
Check breathing.	Look – is your child's chest moving?	move on to the next step.
	Listen – can you hear any breathing?	
	Feel – can you feel any breath on your cheek from your child's tracheostomy or	
	nose or mouth?	
Breathe.	Give your child 5 breaths through the tracheostomy tube with your mouth	This puts oxygen into your child's lungs. It might
	making sure that the chest rises and falls each time. If available ambubag can	stimulate your child to breathe.
	be used yes/no	
Check for signs of Life.	Look for movement, breathing, coughing. If not sure continue to chest	To assess whether or not your child's heart is
	compressions.	pumping.
Compress your child's	Compress the lower third of your child's chest, 1 finger up from the bottom of	
chest.	the sternum (breastbone) 30 times. Press hard enough to move the sternum	
	1/3 depth of the chest depth.	This pumps the oxygenated blood around your



What to do	How to do it	Why it is necessary
	Child less than 1 year – use 2 fingers.	child's body.
	Child older than 1 year – use the heel of one or two hands.	
	Compress chest at a rate of 110-120 times a minute.	
Continue basic life	2 breaths: 30 compressions. Continue giving 2 breaths then 30 compressions	
support.	for 1 minute or 2 cycles if no help has been called make sure the emergency	It is vital to keep giving your child oxygenated
	services are on their way. If emergency services are on their way continue	breaths and to pump that oxygen around the body
	giving 2 breaths to 30 compressions until help arrives. Do not stop to check	until help arrives.
	whether child is breathing unless obvious signs of life are seen.	

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT: ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Procedure	Discussed/observed Parent to date & sign	Discussed/ observed Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Practiced Parent to date & sign	Practiced Nurse to date & sign	Safe to practice unsupervised	prac pervis
State the signs of cardiac and respiratory										
arrest in a child										
List the possible causes of arrest in a child										
with a tracheostomy										
Demonstrate basic life support on a doll										
using the ABC approach (Airway, Breathing,										
Circulation)										
Discuss Emergency Algorithm.										

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STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

PARENT/C#	ARER DECLATION	
I agree that I	have received full training and am now competent to provide care independently	
Name: Signature: Date:		
STAFF DEC	LATION	
I agree that t	he above carer is competent on the date stated, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer	to seek further training or support
if required.		
Name:		
Signature:		
Date:		
	When completed a copy of this document is to be kept in the	child's medical records

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