Emergency Paediatric Tracheostomy Management

Basic Response

SAFETY - STIMULATE - SHOUT FOR HELP - OXYGEN

SAFE:	Check Safe area, Stimulate, and Shout for help
AIRWAY:	Open child's airway: head tilt / chin lift / pillow or towel under shoulders may help
OXYGEN:	Ensure high flow oxygen to the tracheostomy AND the face as soon as oxygen available
CAPNOGRAPHY:	Exhaled carbon dioxide waveform may indicate a patent airway (advanced response)

SUCTION TO ASSESS TRACHEOSTOMY PATENCY

Remove attachments: humidifier (HME), speaking valve
Change inner tube (if present)
Inner tubes may need re-inserting to connect to breathing circuits

Can you pass a SUCTION catheter?

Yes → **The tracheostomy tube is patent**
Perform tracheal suction
Consider partial obstruction
CONTINUE ASSESSMENT (ABCDE)

No ↓

EMERGENCY TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE CHANGE

Deflate cuff (if present). Reassess patency after any tube change
1st change – same size tube
2nd change – one-half size smaller tube
3rd change - over suction catheter to guide

IF UNSUCCESSFUL – REMOVE THE TUBE

IS THE PATIENT BREATHING? - Look, listen and feel at the mouth and tracheostomy/stoma

Yes → Continue oxygen
Stabilize
Reassess
Review

Plan for definitive airway if tube change failure

No ↓

CALL FOR HELP: 2222 in hospital, 999 in community

5 RESCUE BREATHS

Patent Upper Airway – use the nose/mouth
Obstructed Upper Airway – use the tracheostomy/stoma

NO SIGNS OF LIFE? START CPR

15 compressions : 2 rescue breaths
Ensure help or resuscitation team called

Advanced Response

Primary emergency oxygenation

Standard ORAL airway manoeuvres
Cover the stoma (swabs / hand).
Use:
- Bag-valve-face mask
- Oral or nasal airway adjuncts
- Supraglottic Airway (SGA)
- e.g. Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA)

Tracheostomy STOMA ventilation
- Paediatric face mask applied to stoma
- SGA applied to stoma

Secondary emergency oxygenation

ORAL intubation with endotracheal tube
Uncut tube, advanced beyond stoma
One half-size smaller than tracheostomy tube
'Difficult Airway' Expert and Equipment*

Attempt intubation of STOMA
3.0 ID tracheostomy or endotracheal tube
'Difficult Airway' Expert and Equipment*

***EQUIPMENT: Fibreoptic scope, bougie, airway exchange catheter, Airway trolley**