

Why does my child need suctioning?

Suctioning is used to help clear mucous from your child's airway.

When should I suction my child's airway?

- If your child is having difficulty in breathing
- If you can hear the sound of mucous and your child cannot cough
- If you can see secretions or mucous in your child's airway

Types of Suctioning

- Oral
- Nasal
- Tracheal

Equipment

- Suction Machine
- Suction Tubing
- Suction Catheter, Yankauer, or Little Sucker
- Collection Canister attached to Suction Machine
- Small Container of Water

How to suction my child

- Wash hands with antibacterial soap and water.
- Attach suction tubing to suction machine.

1. Oral Suctioning

- Attach Yankauer to suction tubing.
- Cover hole on Yankauer.
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- Gently insert Yankauer into your child's mouth.
- Remove Yankauer from your child's mouth.
- Rinse Yankauer in small container of water.

2. Nasal Suctioning

- Attach Little Sucker to suction tubing.
- Cover hole on Little Sucker.
- Gently insert Little Sucker into your child's nose.
- Gently rotate Little Sucker in nare while removing from nose.
- Rinse Little Sucker in small container of water.

3. Tracheal Suctioning

- Attach suction catheter to suction tubing.
- Cover hole on suction catheter.
- Slide covering back to premeasured mark appropriate for your child.
- Insert suction catheter into your child's trach.
(Only suction to the end of the trach, you should premeasure this on an unused trach)
- Count to 5 then gently remove suction catheter from trach while continuing to suction.
- Rinse suction catheter in small container of water

Allow your child to take a few breaths, and then repeat suctioning if needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Cook Children's Home Health at (800) 747-8242.
A nurse is available 24 hours a day.