

**Glossary of Terms:****A****Aerosol:**

A mist of very small particles suspended in a gas – the misting of water droplets you can see in a humidity set up, suspended in either air or oxygen

**Apnea:**

When breathing is not happening for more than 20 seconds; not breathing

**Artificial Nose:**

Another name for a Heat and Moisture Exchanger (HME) – used to provide portable humidity

**Artificial airway:**

A tube placed in the airway to support breathing - either an endotracheal tube (a tube that can be inserted into the mouth or nose) or a tracheostomy tube (a tube that is surgically placed in the neck)

**Aspiration:**

When anything other than air enters the airway – food or liquids

**B****Bacteria:**

Germs that cause infection

**Bagger:**

Another name for an Ambu bag, bagging unit, or manual resuscitator – a self-inflating breathing bag that can provide breaths by connecting to the tracheostomy tube or by a mask that can be placed over the mouth and nose

**Bronchoscopy:** A lighted tube and camera that can be placed into a child's airway to help see the airway, take samples, and suction secretions

**C****Cannula:**

A small tube – the tube part of the tracheostomy tube that sits inside the trachea

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):**

The waste gas eliminated from the lungs when breathing out

**Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR):**

Rescue breathing and compressions that are used to support breathing and circulation when a person has stopped breathing or their heart has stopped

**Cuff:**

An inflatable balloon on some tracheostomy tubes that helps seal the air around the tube

**Cyanosis:**

A bluish color of the skin and mucus membranes because of low levels of oxygen in the blood

**D****Decannulation:**

A planned removal of the tracheostomy tube

**Dislodgement:**

When the tracheostomy tube comes out accidentally

**Dyspnea:**

Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath

**Dysphagia:**

Difficulty swallowing or eating

**E****Edema:**

Swelling of tissue

**F****Fenestration:**

A hole in the cannula of larger trach tubes that can allow for airflow to help with speech

**Flange:**

The part of the trach tube that sits on the neck where the ties are attached on either side

**H****Heat and moisture exchanger (HME):**

A humidifying filter that can be placed in a ventilator circuit or directly onto the end of the tracheostomy tube that filters, warms, and humidifies the air breathed in

**Heavy Duty Compressor Humidifier:**

A machine that provides non-portable humidified air or oxygen through a trach collar

**Hypoxemia:**

A low amount of oxygen in the blood

**I****Instill:**

When a solution like sterile normal saline is inserted into the tracheostomy tube to help clear secretions or a medication like Tobramycin is inserted into the tracheostomy tube to treat respiratory infections

**Indrawing:**

Another word for retractions, when the accessory muscles are being used in respiratory distress to help the diaphragm with breathing – seen between the ribs, above the breast bone, above the collar bones, and below the breast bone

**L****Lumen:**

The inside of the tracheostomy tube through which air passes

**M****Mucus:**

The fluid that collects in the mouth, nose, airways and trachea produced by the mucous membranes; also known as secretions

**N****Normal Saline:**

A medical solution of water and salt that can be instilled

**O****Obstruction:**

A complete or partial blockage of the tracheostomy tube

**Obturator:**

The guide that goes in the tracheostomy tube to help insert the tube into the trachea properly

**P****Patent:**

Open and unobstructed; the tracheostomy tube should be patent

**R****Respite:**

When temporary safe supportive care can be provided by trained caregivers to provide relief for family caregivers

**S****Speaking valve:**

A one way valve that allows air movement to pass through the vocal cords to help with speech

**Stoma:**

The hole in the neck where the tracheostomy tube sits

**Sterile:**

Very clean and free from germs

**Suctioning:**

A way to remove mucus or saliva with a suction catheter and a suction machine

**T****Tracheostomy:**

A small surgical opening through the skin and into the windpipe; the stoma

**Tracheotomy:**

A surgical procedure that creates a tracheostomy

**Tracheostomy Tube:**

A molded plastic or silicone tube that is passed through the stoma into the airway to support the airway and breathing; also called a trach tube

**Trach Collar:**

A plastic mask that fits over the trachea to provide humidity and/or oxygen

**V****Ventilator:**

A machine that helps a person breathe

**Virus:**

A germ that can cause illness

**Vocal cords:**

Two thin strips of tissue that sit in the upper airway that make sounds and can help protect the lower airway