

## **Alberta Children's Hospital Tracheostomy & Ventilator Education Program Overview**

The Alberta Children's Hospital Tracheostomy and Ventilator Education Program is intended to support families and caregivers to safely care for a child with a tracheostomy and/or a ventilator in their home.

Caring for a child with a tracheostomy or with a tracheostomy and a ventilator is a lot of work and no one can do it alone. We require that at least two family members or support people complete the formal tracheostomy or tracheostomy and ventilator education program.

The program consists of:

- **Education Modules**

Education sessions on specific topics are provided. Sessions are typically 1-3 hours in length so families do not need to be away from their child for extended periods of time. Links to the modules used in these sessions are provided on the [Family and Community Resource Centre](#) website.

- **Skills Training**

Once the education sessions are complete, families and caregivers are given the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned in a supportive environment. First, hands on practice will occur on a medical manikin - a doll with a tracheostomy. Skills will then be practiced on their child once the medical team deems it is safe to do so. An understanding of indications and troubleshooting is required for all skills. Families and caregivers are signed off on all required skills before their child leaves the hospital.

- **Emergency Intervention Simulation Training**

When caring for a child with a tracheostomy and/or ventilator in the community there are several emergency situations one must be prepared for. We simulate these situations using a medical manikin so families and caregivers have the opportunity to gain skills and confidence in how to respond. This is the same way that we prepare health care providers to respond in rare but emergent situations.

- **Caring for your child in and outside of the Hospital**

Families and caregivers will slowly learn to become more independent with their child's care while still in the hospital. This is done by increasing the amount of care families and caregivers provide to their child as they develop more skills and confidence. Once ready, they will be supported in taking their child off their unit and outside the hospital. These situations help build skills and confidence in caring for their child and reduce stress or anxiety about transitioning from the hospital to home.

ACH Home care and outpatient clinic teams will continue to support family and caregiver education and training needs once their child leaves the hospital, particularly in the first weeks and months they are home.

- **Written Resources**

Additional written resources are provided to support the care of a child with a tracheostomy in the community. Links to these resources can be found on [Family and Community Resource Centre](#) website.