

Passy-Muir® Valve

What is a Passy-Muir Valve?

The Passy-Muir Valve is a one-way valve that fits on the tracheostomy tube to allow a child to make sounds. When breathing in, the valve opens, so air enters the lungs through the tracheostomy tube. When breathing out, the valve closes. This makes the air from the lungs flow around the tracheostomy tube, through the vocal cords, and out through the mouth and nose. Air movement through the vocal cords makes the sounds.

What are the benefits?

Children need to babble and play with sounds to help them learn how to talk. The valve helps your child learn how to control breathing out to produce sounds. For children who can already talk, the valve helps them to communicate with others and decreases frustration.

When is my child ready for a Passy-Muir Valve?

Your child's doctor will decide when your child is ready and would benefit from the valve. For the best outcome, children should:

- be medically stable.
- have a stable airway above the tracheostomy.
- have normal vocal cord movement.

The doctor will order a Passy-Muir Valve trial. A trial is needed because your child will need to learn how to breathe differently with the valve, which takes more work.

What happens during a Passy-Muir Valve trial?

An appointment is made with a speech-language pathologist. A respiratory therapist may also be a part of the team. If the tracheostomy tube has a cuff, it **must** be deflated before the valve is attached. The speech-language pathologist will encourage breathing through the mouth. Activities such as bubbles, whistles, horns, and blowing games are used to make it fun and to encourage airflow and sound-making.

The Passy-Muir Valve will be taken off if your child shows any signs of anxiety or has trouble breathing. At first, your child may only tolerate a few seconds of using the valve. Gradually, as your child becomes more comfortable with it, the time using the Passy-Muir Valve can be longer.

How can I help my child?

Use the Passy-Muir Valve under the guidance of your child's doctor and speech-language pathologist. They will teach you:

- how to prepare your child.
- how to set up a schedule.
- speech therapy activities.
- ways to coach your child.
- how to care for the valve.

Questions?

This sheet is not specific to your child, but provides general information. If you have any questions, please ask your child's doctors or therapists. For more information, visit Passy-Muir, Inc. at the Web site www.passy-muir.com or call (800) 634-5397.