apls
Advanced Paediatric Life Support

Failed intubation checklist

PLAN A:
Intubation via direct laryngoscopy (not >4 attempts)
- Maintain oxygenation between attempts
- Optimise neck flexion and head extension
- Use a bougie
- Change laryngoscope and/or intubator
- Use external laryngeal manipulation

Unsuccessful?

- Insert supraglottic airway (Guedel or LMA / i-gel)
- Oxygenate and ventilate using 100% O_2
- Insert NGT / OGT and keep stomach decompressed

Unsuccessful?

PLAN B:
Secondary intubation
- Airtrac
- Glidescope
- Fibreoptic intubation via LMA

Unsuccessful?

- Insert supraglottic airway (Guedel or LMA / i-gel)
- Oxygenate and ventilate using 100% O_2
- Insert NGT / OGT and keep stomach decompressed

Unsuccessful?

ENT available?

Yes

Intubation by ENT eg:
- Lindholm laryngoscope with Hopkins rod
- Rigid bronchoscope

Unsuccessful?

No

Needle cricothyroidotomy
- Only in older children when the anatomy is palpable

Unsuccessful?

Open surgical airway
- Tracheostomy
- Cricothyroidotomy only if the anatomy is palpable in older children

Failed oxygenation
- **Use face mask with Guedel airway**
- **Use two-person technique with jaw thrust**
- **Optimise head position**
- **Manage gastric distension with oro/nasogastric tube**
- **Move quickly to next step of algorithm**

Verify ETT position
- **Capnography**
- **Inspection**
- **Auscultation**