



Speech-Language Pathology

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Kids are great! We just make'em better.®

Passy-Muir Valves (PMV)

The PMV is a one-way speaking valve. It is placed on the tracheostomy tube (tracheostomy: Trey-kee-os-tuh-mee). Air is allowed to pass into the lungs. When breathing out, a small piece of film closes off the hole to exhale, forcing the air up through the vocal cords and out of the mouth.

Who can wear these valves?

- Children who have had their trach changed at least once.
- Children who have no upper airway blockage
- Children who are cleared to wear one by an otolaryngologist (ENT), pulmonologist or other doctor

Rules to wearing the valve:

- The child must be awake
- If the child has a tracheostomy with a cuff, the cuff must be deflated first
- When putting on the valve, place one hand on the tracheostomy neck plate and use the other hand to place the valve on the end of the tracheostomy. Do this using a quarter turn of the valve while placing it.
- Start with the valve slowly, increasing the time it is worn as the child allows. The child may cough or gag when it is first placed, but should improve quickly.
- The valve should be cleaned daily. Swish soapy warm water through the valve. Allow it to air dry before putting it away.
- It is encouraged for the child to wear the valve while eating. It improves the sensation to the mouth due to the increase in airflow.
- If the valve comes off while the child is wearing it, the valve needs to be washed if it becomes dirty. This includes touching the floor, or becoming full of secretions.

When should the child not wear the PMV?

- If the child is sleeping or about to fall asleep
- If there is an increased work of breathing when the valve is put on.
- If the child has a lot of coughing or gagging for an extended period of time
- If the child is sick and having difficulty breathing [e.g. cold, cough, bronchitis]