A tracheostomy is a surgical opening made in the front of the neck into the trachea, or windpipe. A short tube called a trach is placed into the opening called a stoma. The trach provides a stable airway and allows for secretions to be removed from the lungs. A child then breathes through the trach instead of through the nose and mouth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student complaints/observations</th>
<th>Nursing Action/Intervention</th>
<th>Educator Actions</th>
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</table>
| Difficulty breathing, respiratory distress, change in color | 1. Reposition student.  
2. Suction tracheostomy. If unable to pass suction catheter or no air movement noted, replace trach. (If student does have inner cannula, remove and clean, checking for plug prior to trach change)  
3. Replace trach.  
4. If still no improvement, plug trach and give breaths via face/mouth with ambu bag. (The trach is not working properly so you are reverting to face/mouth)  
5. Call 911. | 1. Notify private duty nurse.  
2. Call school nurse. |
| Tracheostomy is removed | 1. Replace trach using same size backup. If unable to replace, use downsize back up trach. | 1. Notify private duty nurse.  
2. Call school nurse. |