

Setting Up Your Child's Ventilator At Home

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Placement:

- It needs to be close to their bed as the breathing circuits aren't very long.
- Make sure it is easy to see and operate.
- Whilst filtered, the air your child will breathe comes from the ventilator so take care to put it somewhere clean, dust free and away from any harmful fumes.
- Don't put it in direct sunlight as the ventilator may overheat.
- If used, a heated humidifier should be placed lower (~20cm lower) than bed height and ideally lower than the ventilator so that water cannot accidentally run along tubing to your child or back to the ventilator (see below image – red humidifier and blue ventilator). Keep the whole breathing circuit tubing below the height of your child's head so water always runs back to the humidifier.



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Power points:

- You will need to ensure there are sufficient secure power points in the room where the ventilator is set up. If you count up all of your child's equipment it can be a lot (eg: ventilator, humidifier, suction). Ideally there will be an individual point for each piece of equipment though, and a quality power board may be an appropriate alternative (discuss with your health team).
- As the child is dependent on this equipment check the circuit isn't overloaded or have other major appliances on the same circuit that might trip a circuit breaker. You may need to get it checked by an electrician.

Environment:

- Room temperature and humidity can affect how the ventilator and humidifier perform. Ideally the room temperature will be between 18 and 26 degrees .
- Cold air, hot air and fans can all lead to excessive rain out in the breathing circuit. Aside from appropriate heating/ air conditioning, there are a number of other solutions so speak with your health team.

General:

- If your child has two ventilators it's a good idea to give them each names so that you can be clear which is which, especially when troubleshooting.
- You can use stickers on the ventilators or wall charts to remind you about different programs, when things need replacing and how breathing circuits should go together.

