

First Aid: DRSABCD



What is DRSABCD?

The primary survey is an action plan that outlines the steps you should follow when approaching and assessing an emergency situation. It consists of 7 steps known as DRSABCD:

Danger	Check for any dangers around you, your child, and any bystanders to ensure the area is safe.
Response	Squeeze the child's shoulders or firmly tickle their ribs or feet. Are they responsive to your voice or touch? If there is no response, send for help.
Send for help	Call Triple Zero (000) or ask the nearest bystander to make the call. Stay on the line and follow instructions from the call taker.
Airway	Check their mouth for foreign material (e.g. food, vomit). Airway clear? Leave them in their original position and maintain open airway by supporting the chin, lift the jaw forward to open the mouth. Airway obstructed? Move them onto their side (recovery position), clear the airway by performing a finger sweep, then roll them onto their back again and move onto the next step.
Breathing	Look, listen, and feel. Can you see rise and fall of the chest? Can you hear air moving in and out of their mouth or nose? Can you feel movement of air at their mouth or nose (on your cheek)? Unresponsive and breathing normally? Place in recovery position and check regularly for breathing until help arrives. Unresponsive and not breathing normally? Commence CPR.
CPR	Locate the centre of the chest and begin CPR. 30 chest compressions followed by 2 rescue breaths, 100-120 compressions/min: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure neutral head position for infant, and head tilt & jaw thrust for a child. • Aim to compress 1/3 of the chest depth, using 2 fingers for babies and one hand for children. • Give breaths by placing your lips over the mouth and nose for an infant, or pinching the nose for a child. Continue CPR until help arrives.
Defibrillation	Apply a defibrillator as soon as possible and follow the voice prompts.

More Information:

- Royal Children's Hospital (Kids Health Information Fact Sheets): www.rch.org.au
- Kidsafe Victoria: www.kidsafevic.com.au
- Learn these skills by booking into a first aid course: www.emergcare.com.au



This information is not a substitute for first aid training or medical advice. Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this information, Emergcare takes no responsibility for its use by other parties or individuals, and recommends attending a first aid course.