CHART 3. How to manage the choking child (over 1 year of age)



Slapping the back to clear airway obstruction in a choking child

- Give 5 blows to the child's back with heel of hand with child sitting, kneeling or lying
- If the obstruction persists, go behind the child and pass your arms around the child's body; form a fist with one hand immediately below the child's sternum; place the other hand over the fist and pull upwards into the abdomen (see diagram); repeat this Heimlich manoeuvre 5 times
- If the obstruction persists, check the child's mouth for any obstruction which can be removed
- If necessary, repeat this sequence with back slaps again



Heimlich manoeuvre in a choking older child

CHART 4. How to manage the airway in a child with obstructed breathing (or who has just stopped breathing) where no neck trauma is suspected

Child conscious

- Inspect mouth and remove foreign body, if present
- 2. Clear secretions from throat
- Let child assume position of maximal comfort



Neutral position to open the airway in an infant



Sniffing position to open the airway in an older child



Look, listen and feel for breathing

Child unconscious

- 1. Tilt the head as shown
- Inspect mouth and remove foreign body, if present
- 3. Clear secretions from throat
- Check the airway by looking for chest movements, listening for breath sounds and feeling for breath