

The 10-Point Airway Red-Flag Checklist

The signs a Speech-Language Pathologist looks for when screening a child for airway and breathing concerns.

Worth a screening, not a worry. Children rarely “grow out of” airway issues on their own — but the signs are easy to miss, because most happen at night or look like ordinary behavior. Tick anything that sounds like your child.

SLEEP & BREATHING 5 SIGNS

- ☐ Mouth open at rest or during sleep
- ☐ Snoring most nights
- ☐ Chronic mouth breathing, or a frequently stuffy / runny nose
- ☐ Teeth grinding (bruxism) during sleep
- ☐ Restless sleep
kicked-off blankets, sweaty pillow, unusual positions

PHYSICAL & ORAL SIGNS 4 SIGNS

- ☐ Dark circles under the eyes
“allergic shiners”
- ☐ Drooling past age 2
outside teething bursts
- ☐ Bedwetting past age 6
- ☐ Recurrent ear infections, chronic congestion, or enlarged tonsils / adenoids

DAYTIME PATTERNS 1 SIGN

- ☐ Daytime fatigue, irritability, or trouble focusing
poor sleep is often mistaken for behavior

2–3+

Recognize **two or three or more?** It's worth a functional airway screening. This is a starting point for a conversation with a provider — not a diagnosis.

WHO CAN HELP

Pediatric ENT · Airway-focused dentist or orthodontist · Orofacial myofunctional therapist (often an SLP) · IBCLC *(for infants & feeding)*

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Educational purposes only. This checklist is not medical advice and does not diagnose, treat, or replace evaluation by a qualified provider. If you have concerns about your child's health, breathing, or sleep, consult a licensed professional.