



OSCE Checklist: Paediatric Respiratory Examination

Introduction		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the parents and the child, including your name and role	
3	Confirm the child's name and date of birth	
4	Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language	
5	Gain consent from the parents/carers and/or child before proceeding	
General inspection		
6	Observe the child in their environment (e.g. waiting room, hospital bed) and take note of their appearance and behaviour	
Hands		
7	Inspect the hands for clinical signs relevant to the respiratory system	
8	Palpate the radial pulse, assessing the heart rate and rhythm (femoral pulse in babies)	
Face		
9	Inspect the face and eyes for signs relevant to the respiratory system (e.g. nasal flaring, conjunctival pallor)	
10	Inspect the mouth and throat for signs relevant to the respiratory system (e.g. central cyanosis, cleft palate, tonsillar hypertrophy)	
Tracheal position		
11	Inspect the position of the trachea	
Close inspection of the chest		
12	Inspect for scars, chest wall deformities and asymmetry of chest wall movement	
13	Assess the child's respiratory rate for 60 seconds to calculate the number of breaths per minute	
Palpation of the chest		
14	Palpate the apex beat and assess its position	
15	Assess chest expansion	
Percussion of the chest		
16	Percuss the chest wall, comparing side to side as you go	
Auscultation		
17	Auscultate the lungs on each side of the anterior chest at each location to allow for direct comparison	
18	Assess vocal resonance if appropriate (i.e. if child old enough to follow instructions)	
Lymph nodes		
19	Inspect and then palpate the major lymph node chains of the neck	

Posterior chest assessment		
20	Assess the posterior chest including inspection, chest expansion, percussion, vocal resonance and auscultation	
Final steps		
21	Assess for evidence of pedal or sacral oedema	
To complete the examination...		
22	Explain to the child and parents that the examination is now finished	
23	Ensure the child is re-dressed after the examination	
24	Thank the child and parents for their time	
25	Explain your findings to the parents	
26	Ask if the parents and child (if appropriate) have any questions	
27	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
28	Summarise your findings to the examiner	
29	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. vital signs, cardiovascular examination, peak expiratory flow rate)	

Read the full guide at
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)



Download our
[clinical skills app](#)