Failed intubation checklist

**PLAN A:**
Intubation via direct laryngoscopy (not >4 attempts)
- Maintain oxygenation between attempts
- Optimise neck flexion and head extension
- Use a bougie
- Change laryngoscope and/or intubator
- Use external laryngeal manipulation

Unsuccessful?

- Insert supraglottic airway (Guedel or LMA / i-gel)
- Oxygenate and ventilate using 100% O₂
- Insert NGT / OGT and keep stomach decompressed

Unsuccessful?

**PLAN B:**
Secondary intubation
- Airtrac
- Glidescope
- Fibreoptic intubation via LMA

Unsuccessful?

- Insert supraglottic airway (Guedel or LMA / i-gel)
- Oxygenate and ventilate using 100% O₂
- Insert NGT / OGT and keep stomach decompressed

Unsuccessful?

ENT available?

Yes
- Intubation by ENT eg:
  - Lindholm laryngoscope with Hopkins rod
  - Rigid bronchoscope

Unsuccessful?

No
- Needle cricothyroidotomy
  - Only in older children when the anatomy is palpable

Unsuccessful?

Open surgical airway
- Tracheostomy
- Cricothyroidotomy only if the anatomy is palpable in older children

Failed oxygenation
- Use face mask with Guedel airway
- Use two-person technique with jaw thrust
- Optimise head position
- Manage gastric distension with oro/nasogastric tube
- Move quickly to next step of algorithm

Verify ETT position
- Capnography
- Inspection
- Auscultation