

- Place a cotton ball in child's palm; ask child to blow the ball into the air and have parent catch it.
- Place a small tissue on the top of a pencil and ask the child to blow the tissue off.
- Have child blow a pinwheel, a party horn, or bubbles.

## **Box 4-12**

### **Classification of Normal Breath Sounds**

#### **Vesicular Breath Sounds**

Heard over the entire surface of the lungs with the exception of the upper intrascapular area and area beneath the manubrium.

Inspiration is louder, longer, and higher pitched than expiration.

The sound is a soft, swishing noise.

#### **Bronchovesicular Breath Sounds**

Heard over the manubrium and in the upper intrascapular regions where the trachea and bronchi bifurcate.

Inspiration is louder and higher pitched than in vesicular breathing.

#### **Bronchial Breath Sounds**

Heard only over trachea near suprasternal notch.

The inspiratory phase is short, and the expiratory phase is long.

Absent or diminished breath sounds are always an abnormal finding warranting investigation. Fluid, air, or solid masses in the pleural space interfere with the conduction of breath sounds. Diminished breath sounds in certain segments of the lung can alert the nurse to pulmonary areas that may benefit from chest physiotherapy. Increased breath sounds after pulmonary therapy indicate improved passage of air through the respiratory tract. [Box](#)