Newborn Life Support

Dry the baby
Remove any wet towels and cover
Start the clock or note the time

Assess (tone), breathing and heart rate

If gasping or not breathing:
Open the airway
Give 5 inflation breaths
Consider SpO₂ monitoring

Re-assess
If no increase in heart rate
look for chest movement

If chest not moving:
Recheck head position
Consider 2-person airway control
and other airway manoeuvres
Repeat inflation breaths
Consider SpO₂ monitoring
Look for a response

If no increase in heart rate
look for chest movement

When the chest is moving:
If heart rate is not detectable
or slow (<60 min⁻¹)
Start chest compressions
3 compressions to each breath

Reassess heart rate every 30 s
If heart rate is not detectable
or slow (<60 min⁻¹)
consider venous access and drugs

Acceptable pre-ductal SpO₂
2 min 60%
3 min 70%
4 min 80%
5 min 85%
10 min 90%