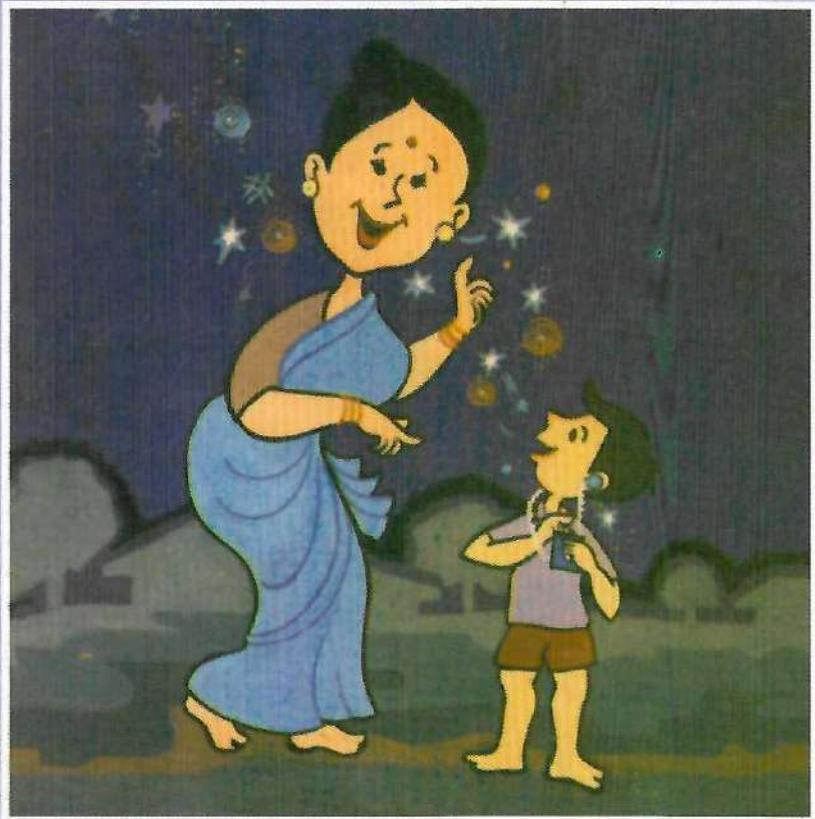


HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO TALK





SYMBOL OF HOPE FOR THE PERSONS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT

Introduction

Dear Parents,

Children learn to talk by listening and imitating the speech of those who are around them. Normally, a child utters his/her first meaningful word by 12 months. He/she starts talking in sentences by 24 to 36 months. However, much before this alert parents suspect hearing or speech related problems in their children. If the child starts talking late, parents become concerned and start worrying. They need reassurance, encouragement and help from professionals.

Here are a few do's and dont's for helping children to talk better. These suggestions are aimed at providing ways of stimulating good speech and language. Some of these may be helpful for a child with mental retardation. Overall, these are most effective with a select guidelines that work best for you and for the particular child you are concerned about. If you have a question about how any of these should be carried out, contact us at the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute For The Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai - 50.

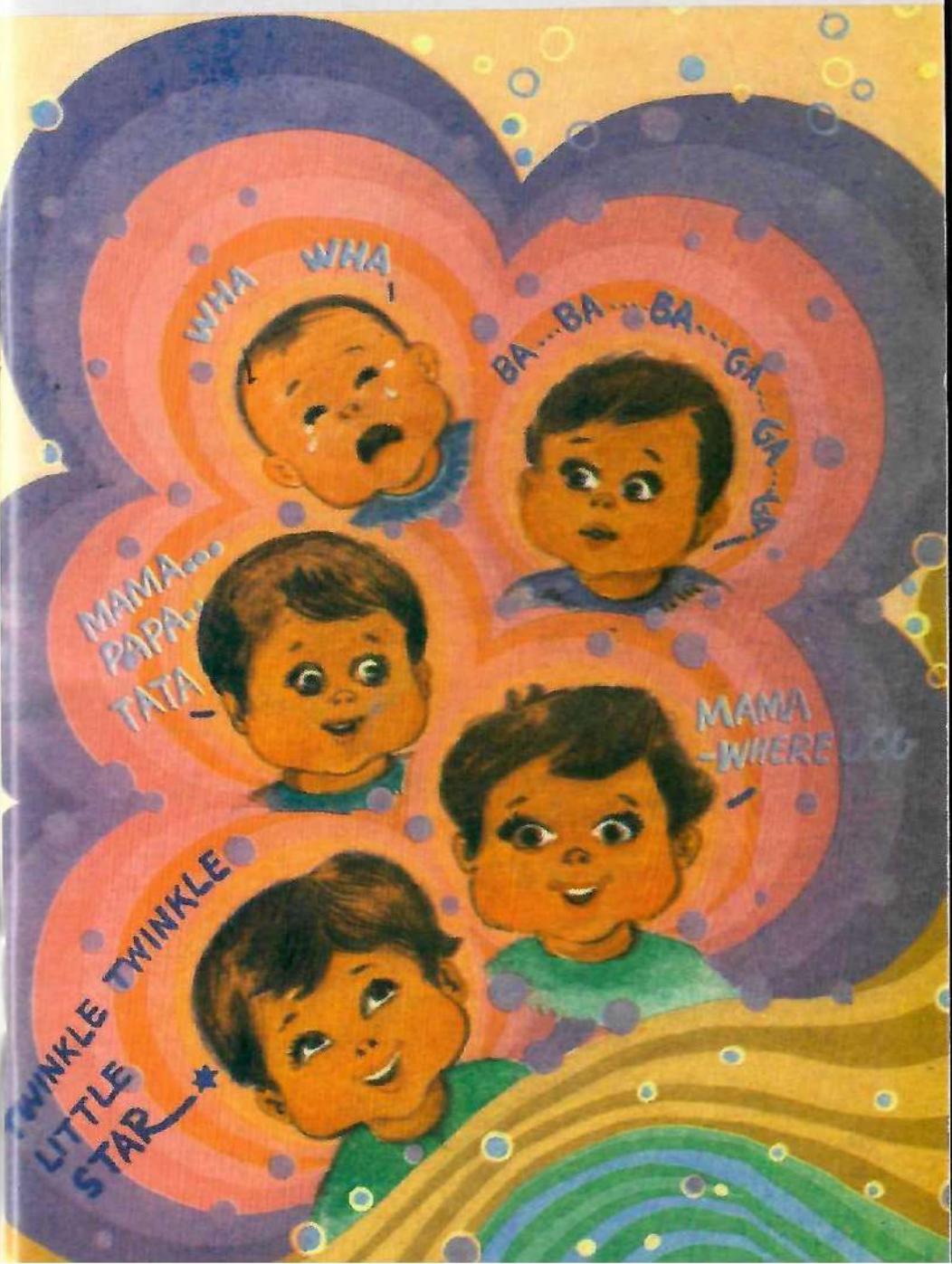
Be Familiar with the Child's Developmental Stages of Speech

Familiarizing with speech / language developmental milestones is important because....

- If your child misses the particular stage, then you can refer her/him to a speech therapist immediately.
- You will be able to build confidence in developing and correcting speech and language in your child.

Suggestions....

- Get information about speech milestones from a teacher or a reference book.
- Be alert on your child's language and speech performance.
- Keep checking whether his / her progress in language understanding and speech is like other children.



Start at an Early Age :

Early age beginning from birth onwards is critical to develop spoken language quickly. The speech of your child with hearing impairment may not be at par with the speech developmental milestones of a normal hearing child. You are almost all the time with your child. So, if you start imparting speech/language inputs early to your child then it will give him/her opportunity to develop intelligible speech.

Suggestions....

- Start early to give speech/language inputs to your child.
- Ensure constant and regular use of hearing aids.
- Spend more time with your child.
- Talk with the child most of the time clearly, slowly and naturally.
- Talk to the child about everything in your surroundings as daily life situations provide good opportunities for your child to learn to speak.
- Label objects/situations in the surroundings. Child's first words are learnt through labeling.
- Remember a mother is the first teacher. She has to be encouraging and positive.

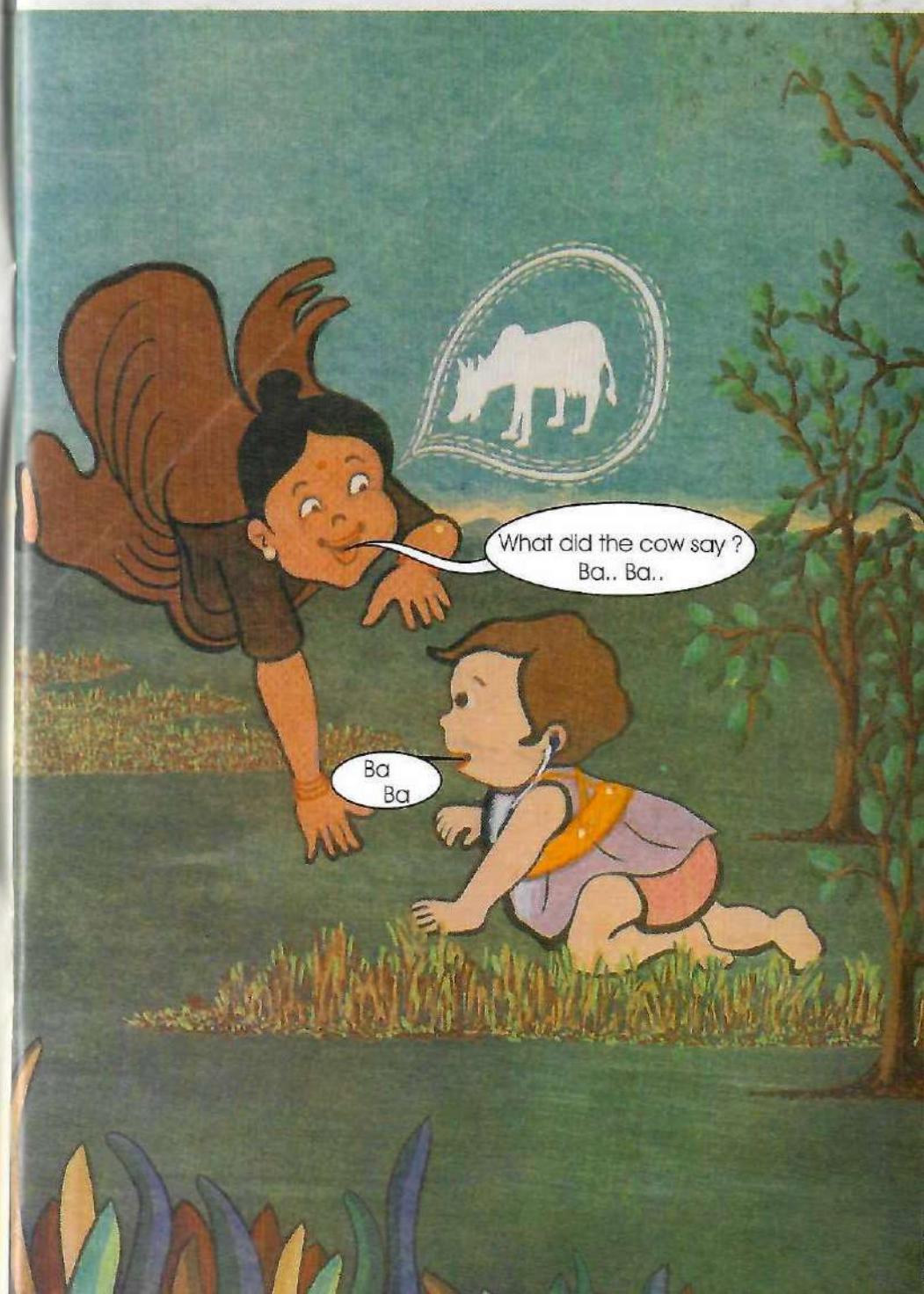


Learning Through Imitation

All children are good at imitation. But the child with hearing impairment has poor imitation capacity for spoken language. The child who uses hearing aid can learn to talk by feeling the vibrations of your speech. He/she also imitates intonation patterns of your speech, facial expressions, animation, etc as supporting modes for him/her to listen and express spoken language. In this way, the child with hearing impairment will learn to talk in an intelligible manner.

Suggestions....

- Make use of his/her ability to the full extent,
- Putting sounds together is fun,
- Ensure that speech learning is made enjoyable,
- Repeat what you say,
- Don't exaggerate facial expressions or lip movements,
- Appreciate him / her for the efforts at limitation.

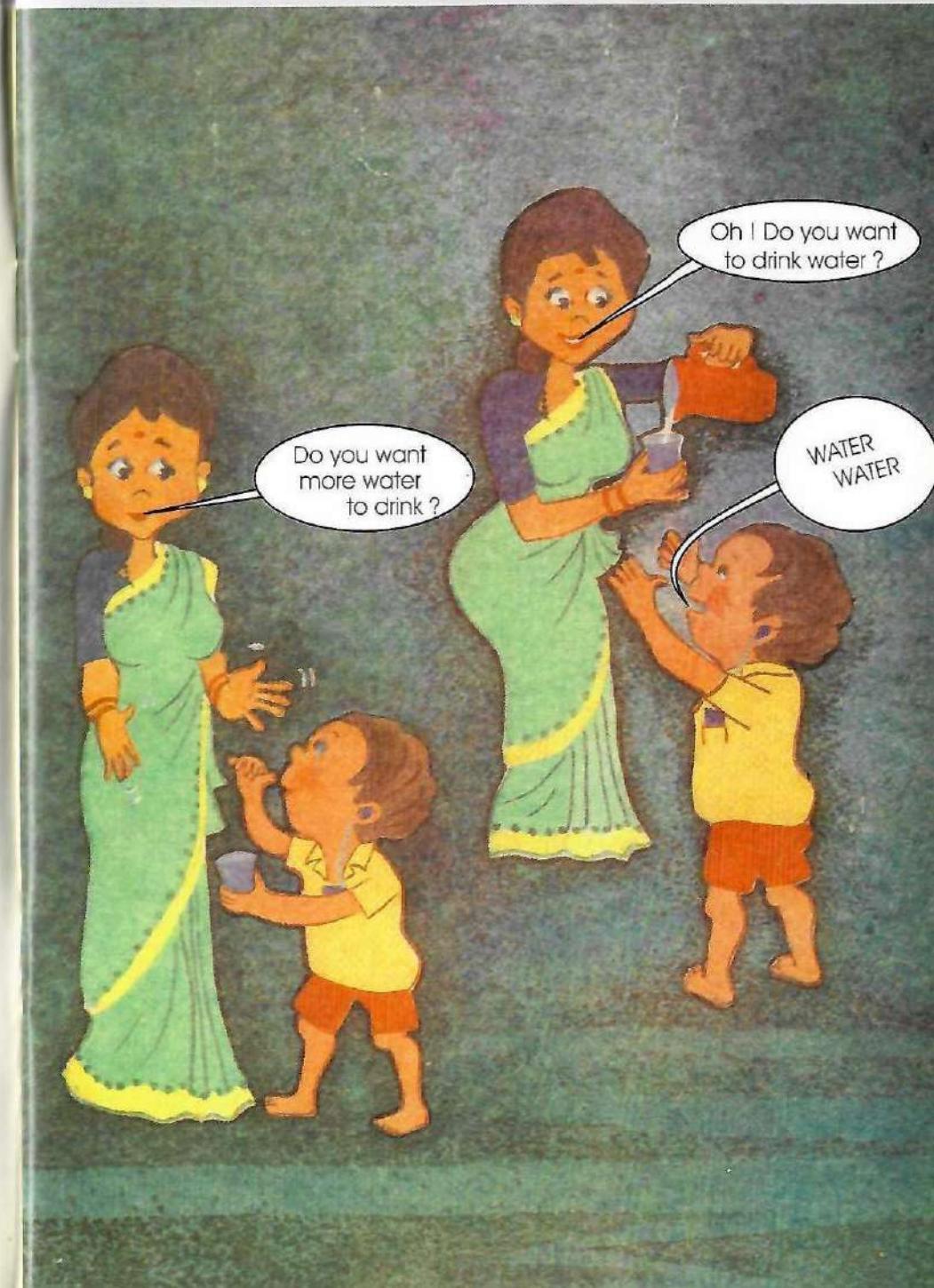


Expand your child's utterances

The child with hearing impairment using hearing aids may receive good speech/language inputs, but unable to express words properly, (may be in one/two words or use gestures). It is important for persons having good speech model to expand your child's utterances like correcting, creating a conversation, etc. Slowly, the hearing impaired child will learn to understand how to talk in a correct grammatical way.

Suggestions....

- Create a need to talk, & encourage your child to talk as much as possible.
- Reward your child's attempt at talking.
- Expect him / her to talk, don't hurriedly talk for him / her ample opportunity.
- Don't irritate him / her by correcting all the time but show him / her the right model by respecting his / her word / substance appropriately.



Learning to talk through play

Learning to talk through play is an interesting activity for your child. It will create interest in your child to look at your face. In this way, the child will be motivated to listen and be curious to ask questions in a conversational manner. It is important to have a good speech model to stimulate speech to the hearing impaired person. Various activities for speech stimulation can be created by parents and teachers. This will help the hearing impaired child to develop a concept of unfamiliar words and sounds.

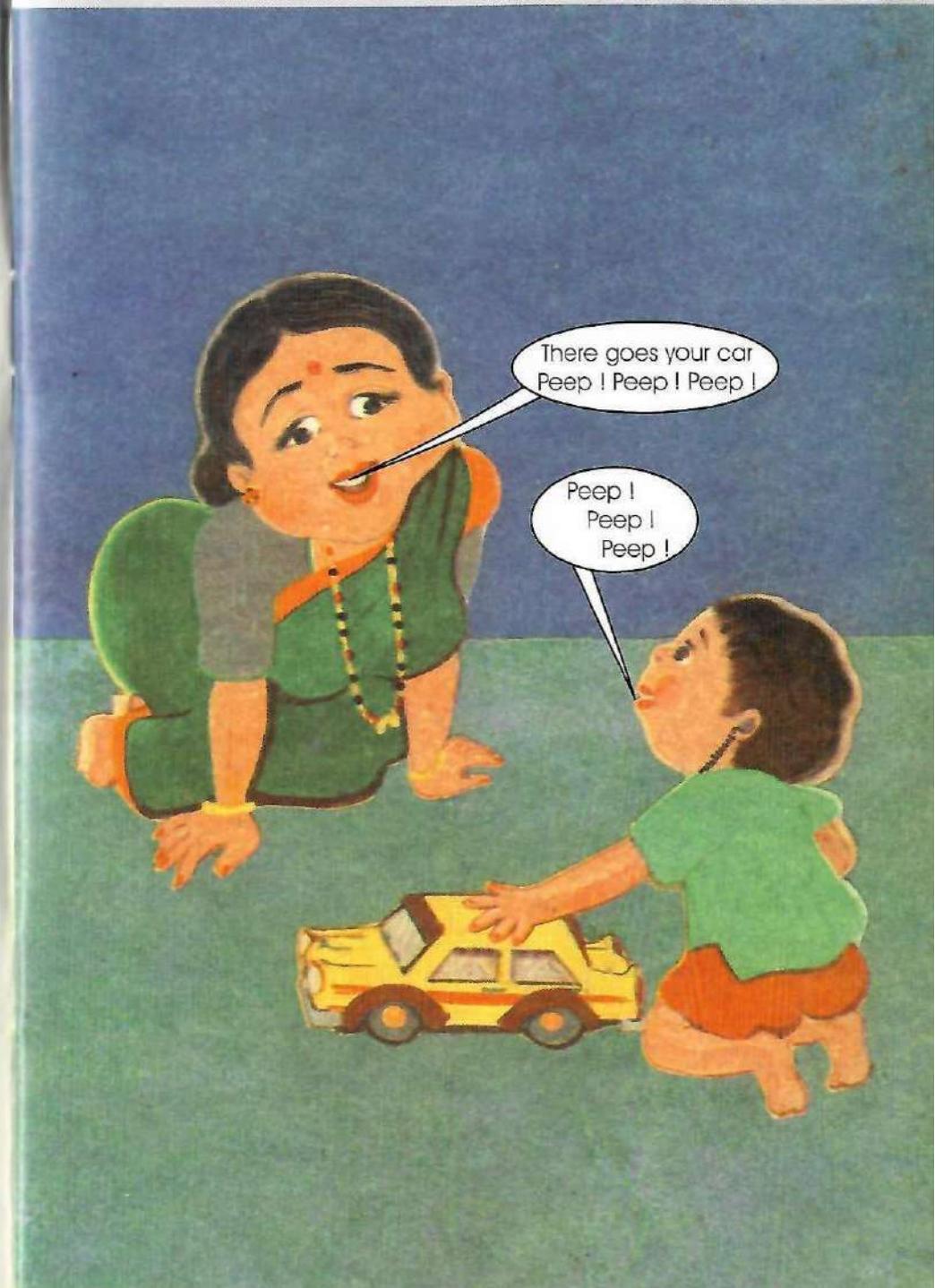
Suggestions....

- Describe your activities while you are doing it.
- Narrate all your activities.

For example : If he is playing with a car, you might say, "Oh, you have a car?"

"What a big car it is!", "It is a pretty yellow colour car.

"I like your car. Now as you push the car, it goes Peep... Peep....Peep...."



Take Interest In Your Child's Ability

Communication with your child with hearing impairment should be natural. When you talk with your child, assume that he/she is just a hearing child. When your child wants to say something, take the opportunity to take interest in him/her to talk more and more about his/her/ activities, all the events in the school, shopping, etc.

Suggestions....

- Pay attention to your child's interests and develop speech accordingly.
- Correct grammatical errors whenever necessary without disturbing the child's speech or whatever the child is doing.
- Take time to listen to the child.

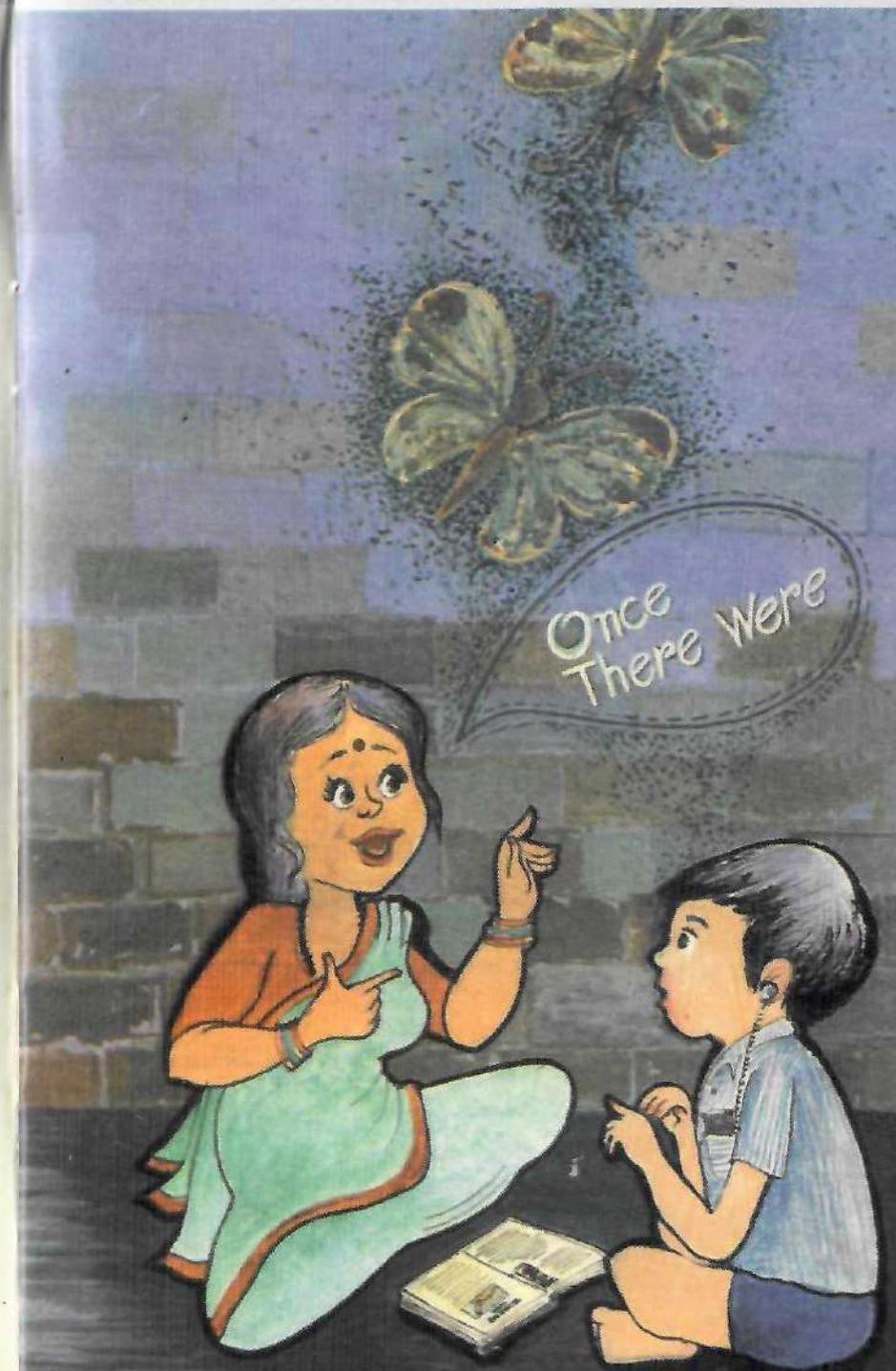


Telling Stories To Your Child

It is very important to tell at least 4-5 stories to your hearing impaired child daily because this will help the child to develop listening skills, building & facilitating conversational skills, also building vocabularies and concepts. Story telling should be based on experiences and child's language level.

Suggestions....

- Tell 4 to 5 stories daily.
- Choose a time to tell stories. It could be bed time or after the child's bath, when the child feels fresh & comfortable and ready to listen.
- Make sure the child understands the stories.
- Make sure that the child watches, pays attention and listens to you.
- Encourage your child to ask questions.
- Use simple words, phrases and sentences meaningfully.
- Try to talk in sentences and not in isolated words
- Use pictures and objects to explain whenever necessary.



Reading Aloud With Your Child

The person who reads should have clear and good rhythm in speech. When the person reads aloud, the hearing impaired child learns many things. The child not only receives story or information but also learns the way in which the person reads the book like his/her rhythm & intonation asking questions, creating exclamation etc. For the hearing impaired, reading should be similar to the patterns of how spoken language is expressed. It is understood that the language of the book is different from spoken language. The books can be developed and prepared by parents and teachers depending on the vocabularies, level of language, experiences, etc. In this way, the hearing impaired child will find reading aloud as pleasurable.

Suggestions....

- Prepare simple and suitable story books for your hearing impaired child.
- Encourage good reading habits in your child.
- Let your child choose story books and read it independently.
- Create a small library in your home.

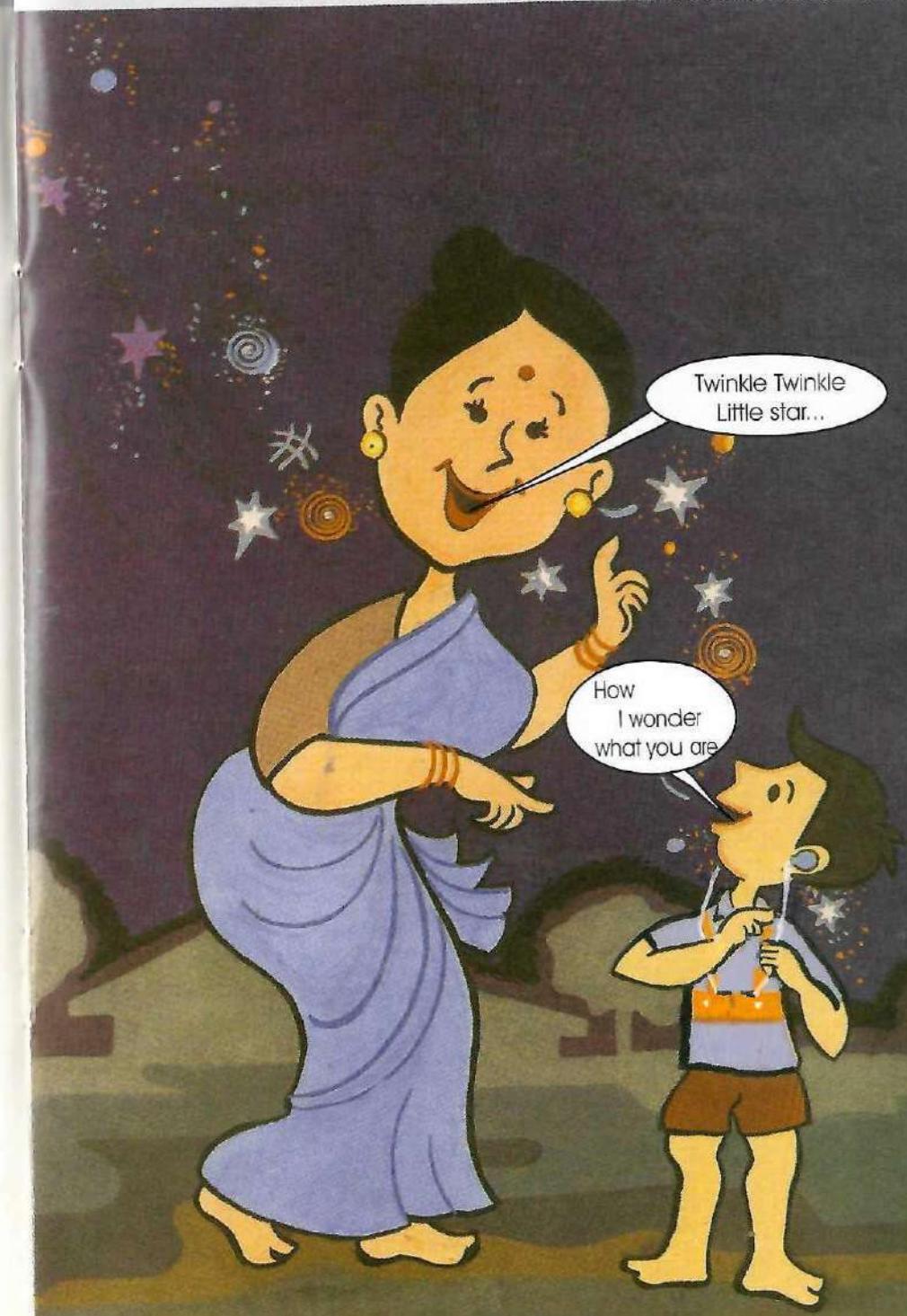


Singing to and with the child

The speech of the hearing impaired child appears to be non-rhythmic. Singing helps to exercise vocalization and turns it to be meaningful. Singing to the child is useful for him to understand that spoken language has different patterns & intonation of speech. In turn, the hearing impaired child can learn to sing by repeating a particular song. In this way, the child will learn how to make & follow simple rhythmic tunes. Thus, singing is one of the ways to develop rhythm (intonation pattern) in speech.

Suggestions....

- Purchase music cassettes.
- Make the child listen to music.
- Sing songs/ poems to your child.
- Sing to your child regularly.

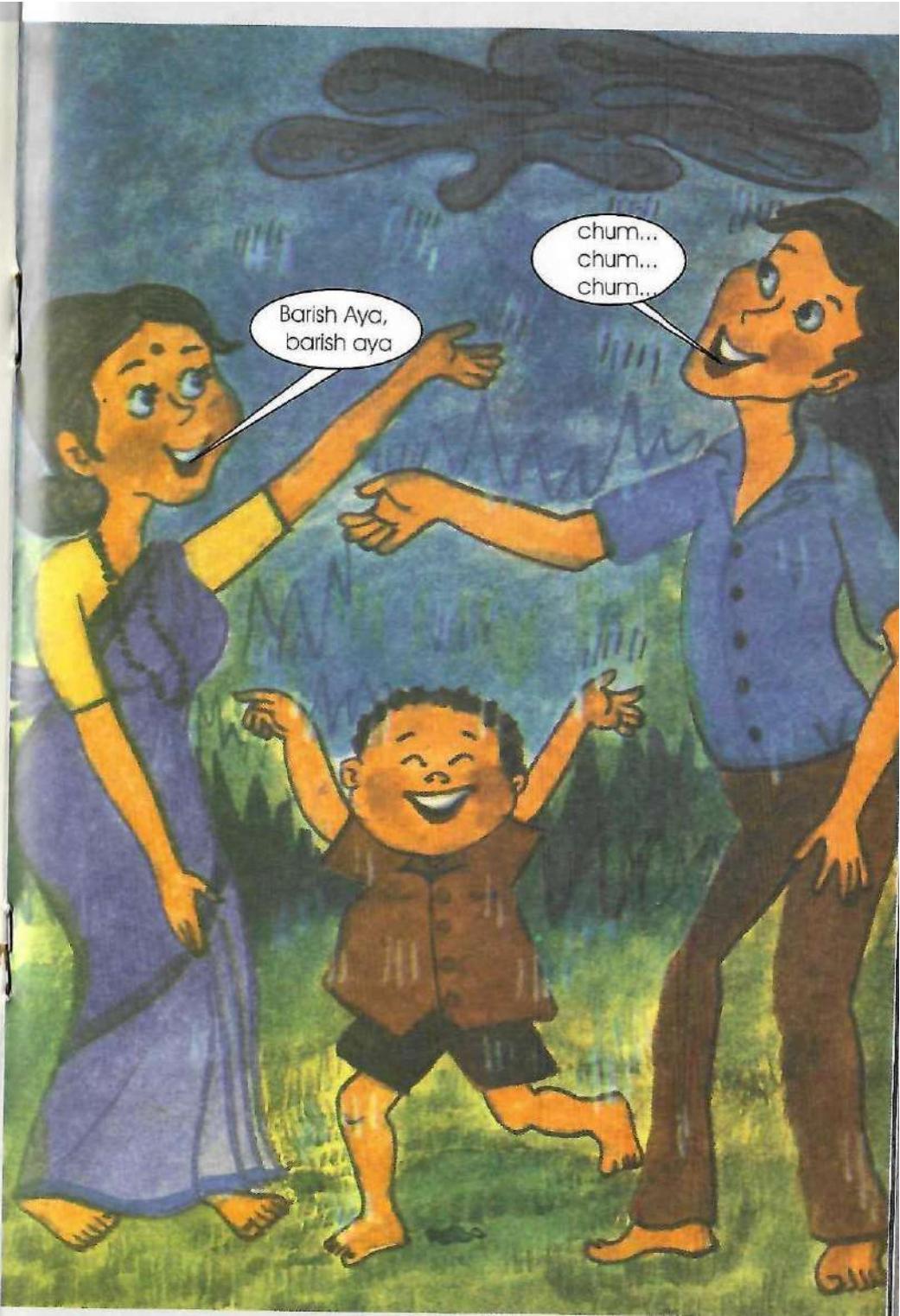


Dance Along with Your Child

Dance helps to develop rhythm in the body. Rhythm will help the child to develop proper speech & intonation patterns. When your child dances, she or he may vocalize. Once vocalization takes place, then the hearing impaired child will be taught to develop speech step by step.

Suggestions....

- Play music in the house and make your child to dance.
- Help your child to listen to music and dance.
- See that your child vocalizes while dancing.



Making Your Hearing Impaired Child Aware of Sounds

Using hearing aid, the hearing impaired child hears something, but he/she finds it difficult to identify what the sound is. So, awareness of sound is important for your hearing impaired child. This will help him/her to listen to sounds repeatedly and then imitate sound by speaking it. She or he can learn to differentiate between environmental sounds such as sounds of vehicles, birds and non-environmental sounds like speech sounds. The child with hearing impairment will learn to ignore unwanted sound and pay attention to what you and others are talking. Parents and teachers must develop auditory training that facilitates your child to develop listening skills.

Suggestions....

- Purchase or develop sound-making toys.
- Draw attention to familiar sounds.
- Alert your child whenever unfamiliar sound occurs.

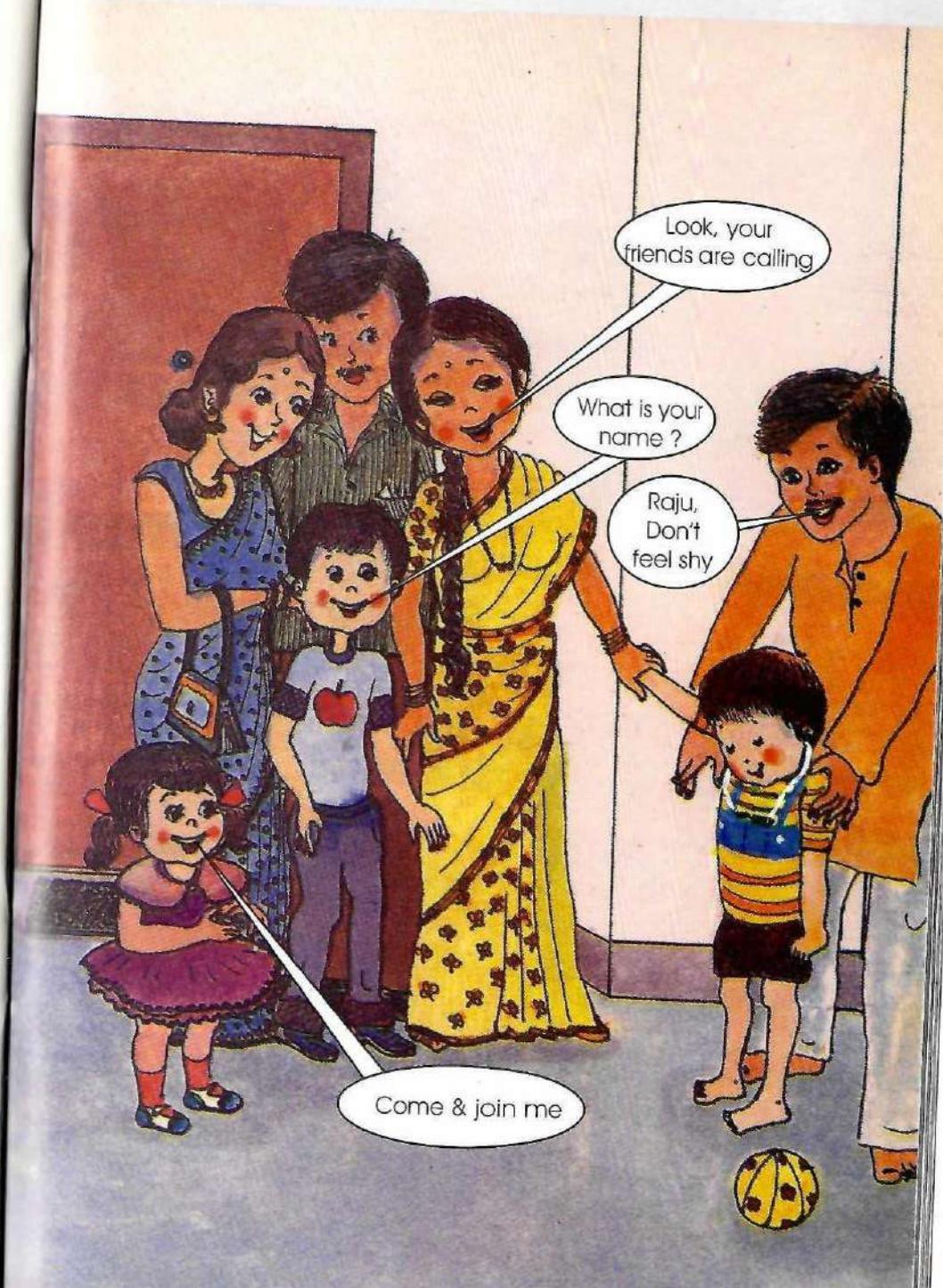


Socializing your hearing impaired child

The hearing impaired child feels comfortable to talk with parents and teachers. She/he feels uncomfortable to talk with others due to past experiences, difficulties, etc. This should be avoided because she or he may not learn how to utilize spoken language in a social situation. Socialization becomes important for your child because this will create opportunities to participate in discussion with other children. Once the hearing impaired child gets socialized, then her/his spoken language will improve, and the hidden fears and inhibitions will gradually reduce.

Suggestions....

- Make sure the hearing impaired child understands the subject or topic which is being spoken.
- Involve your child to participate in discussions.
- Encourage your hearing impaired child to wear a hearing aid.

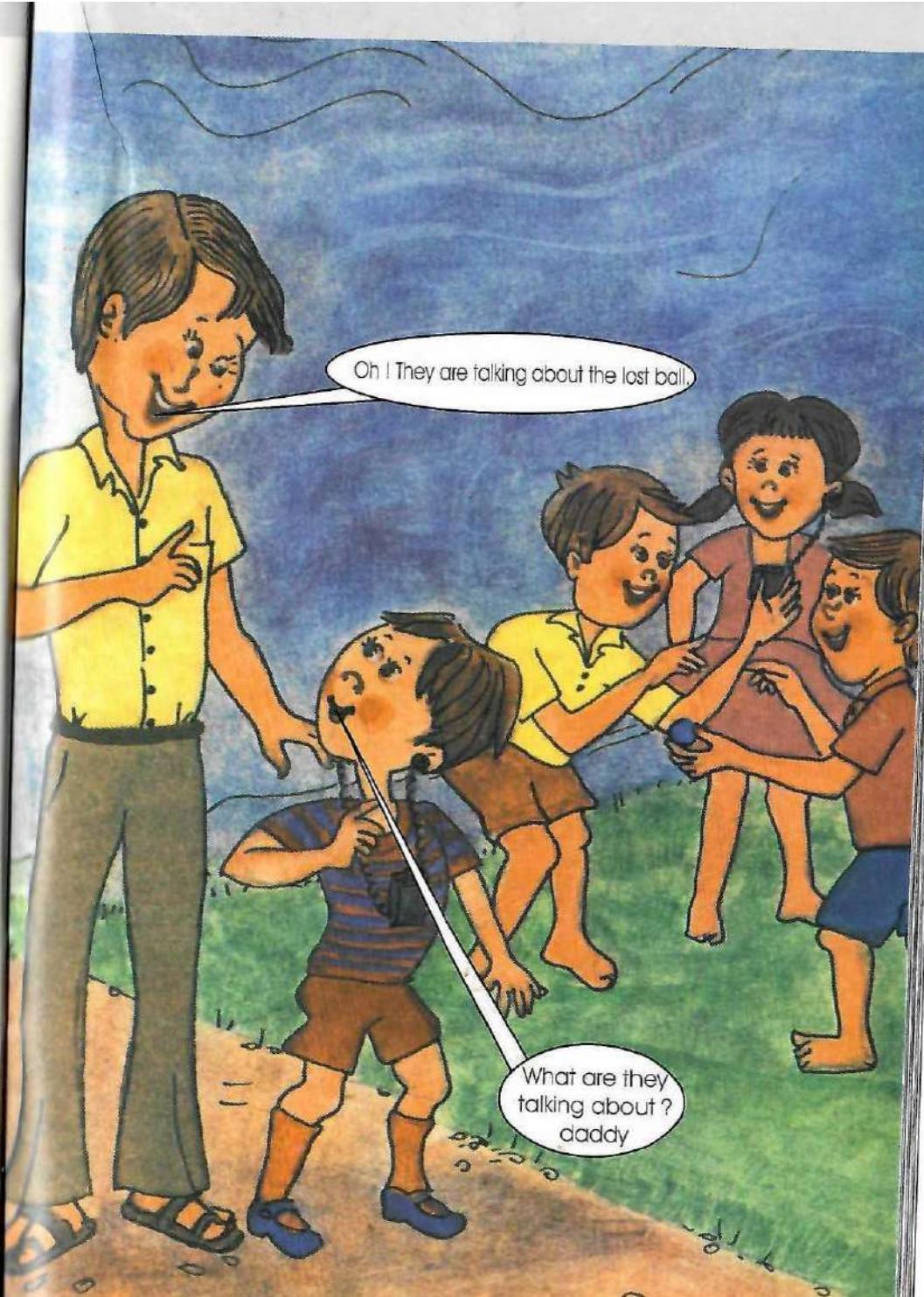


Provide your child opportunities to talk

Talking with parents is not only sufficient for a hearing impaired. It would be ideal to expose your hearing impaired child with peers, friends, neighbours, relatives, etc. When the hearing impaired child interacts with them, she or he will learn how people communicate with each other. In this way, the child will learn to talk by taking turns in a conversation.

Suggestions....

- Send your child to a friend's house to play, or for a birthday party, etc.
- Encourage your child to participate in your discussion.
- Relate your experiences to your child daily.
- Give awareness to neighbours, friends, and relatives on how to communicate with the hearing impaired child.

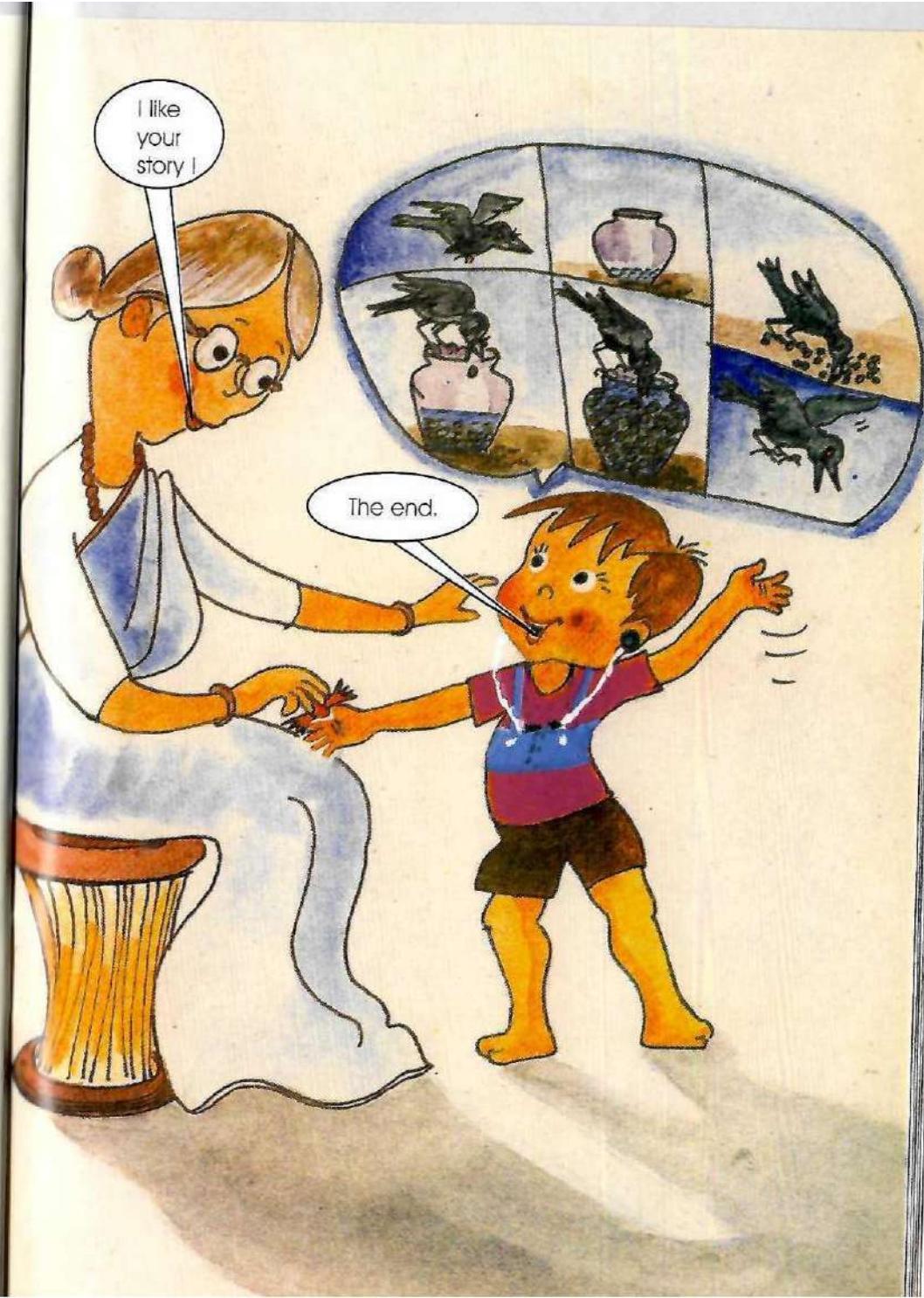


Encourage Your hearing impaired Child to Tell Stories

All children love to tell stories. After listening to various stories, the hearing impaired child learns how to express feelings, how to convey information and happenings in a systematic manner to others. It is also beneficial for the child to produce intelligible speech.

Suggestions....

- Provide your child with lots of story books.
- Choose a suitable time for your child to tell stories.
- Correct the errors when your hearing impaired child tells stories.
- Take time to listen to your child.
- Make simple story books for your hearing impaired child .



Engage your child with hearing impairment in Conversation & News.

News, and conversation for hearing impaired children are beneficial for improving speech, increasing language inputs and understanding socially appropriate language. The hearing impaired child must be made to feel important and enjoyable to participate in discussion. This will motivate your child to talk more and more. It does not matter how many mistakes your hearing impaired child makes. Error in his/her speech must be corrected at a proper time.

Suggestions....

- Discuss current events
- Each child is different, so let the child achieve what she/he can do and not what you want her/him to do.
- Maintain a diary of what you are teaching and what the child is achieving on learning.
- Take time to listen to the child.
- Make simple story books for your hearing impaired child.

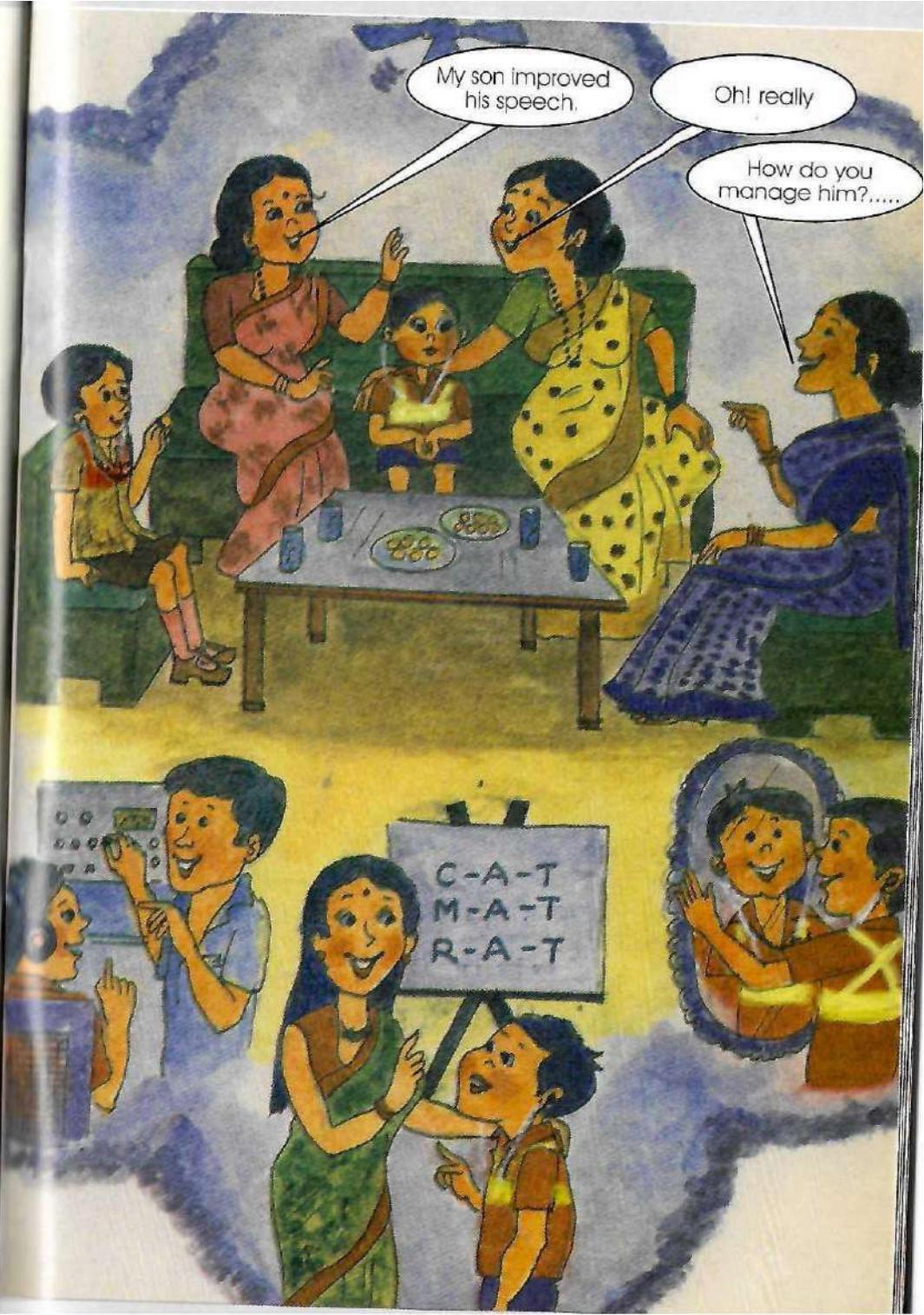


Guide Your Child

You are the better person in dealing with your hearing impaired child. Try to meet parents whose children are hearing impaired and you will get ideas like progress in communication, understanding the child's communication abilities and difficulties, speech therapy etc., In this way you can build your confidence in guiding your child's speech.

Suggestions....

- Meet, talk, and share your experiences with other parents.
- Take guidance from professionals periodically.

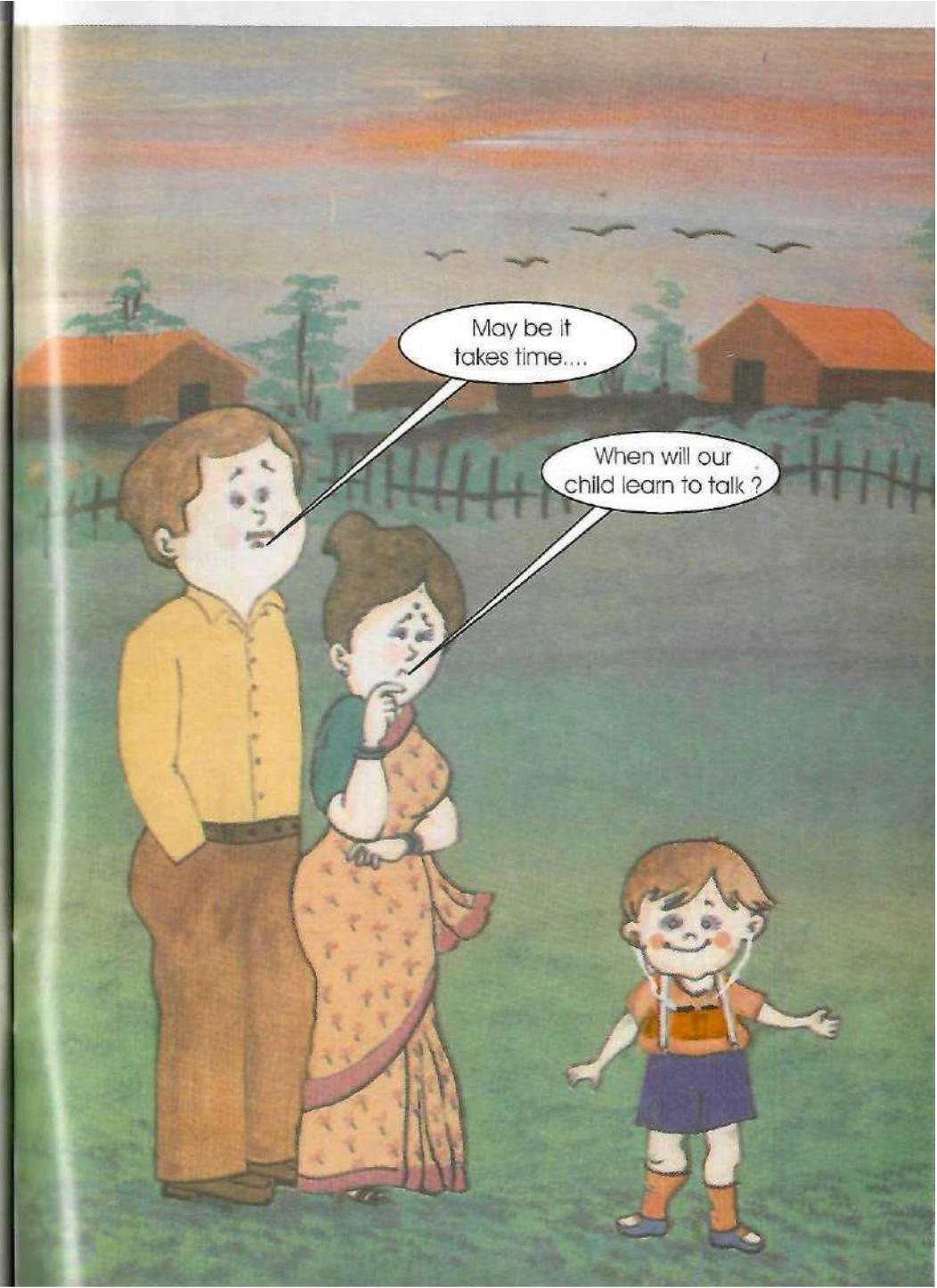


Be Positive To Your Child's Speech Performance

If your hearing impaired child's progress in speech is slow, it means that your child needs time in learning to talk after speech training. It is important to understand your hearing impaired child's difficulties and abilities in her/his speech. If you portray your desirable images to your child, then your child will be positive in processing her/his speech. When the hearing impaired child faces difficulties of learning to talk, you should encourage her/him to talk.

Suggestions....

- Don't feel pity for your child or for yourself, you can help him/her to talk.
- Don't compare him/her with his/her brothers and sisters and other children of his/her age.
- Don't under-estimate his/her abilities.

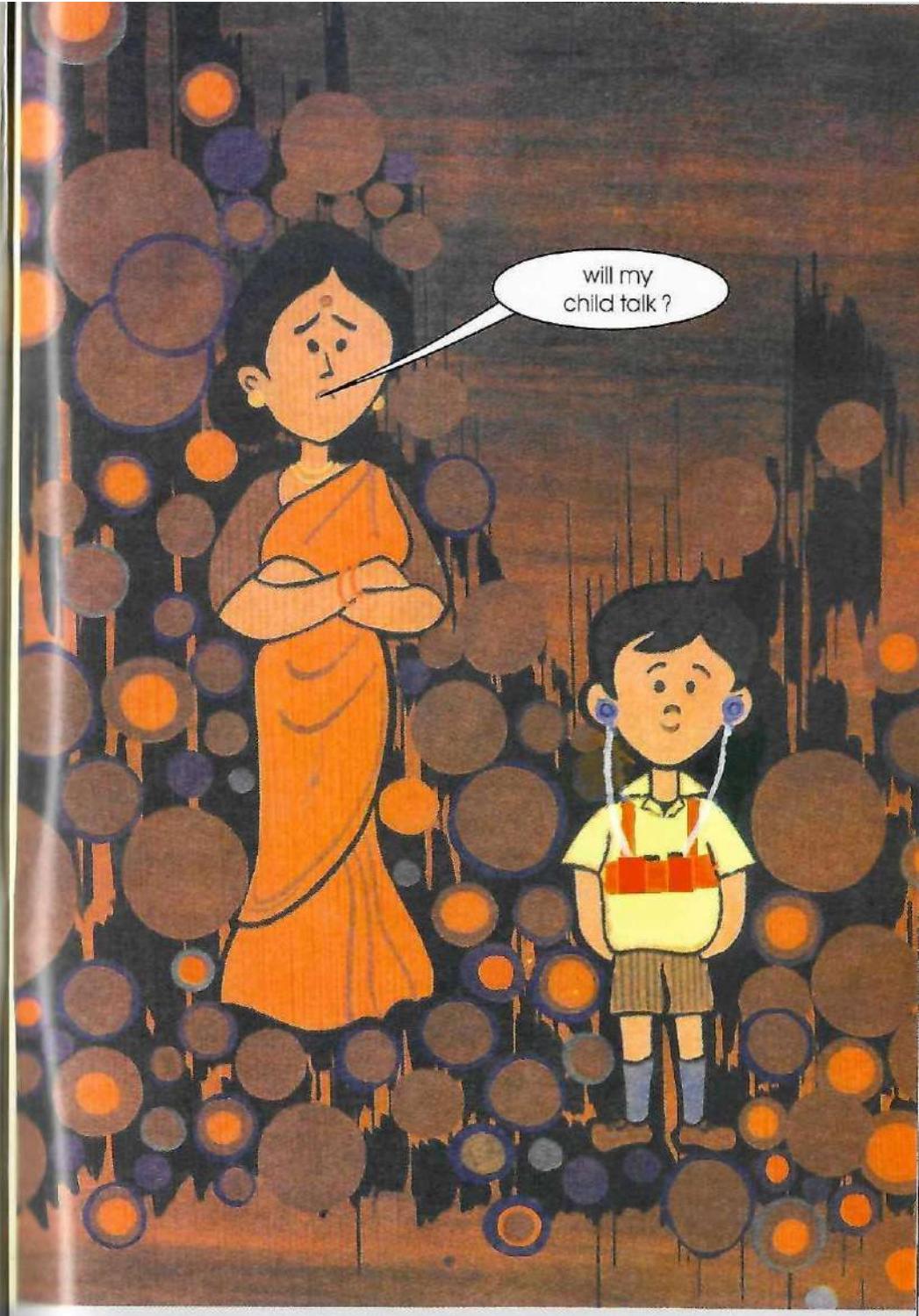


Face Challenge of Your Child's Speech

When your hearing impaired child utters nonsense speech in a social situation, take it as a challenge. Your hearing impaired child is incapable to hear or speak properly, but at least he/she is able to do normal tasks like hearing people do. The hearing impaired child needs constant support in overcoming his/her speech difficulties. This is important because your child may feel shy to talk with others which should be avoided. Learn with your child and you will soon discover that your hearing impaired child is just like hearing person.

Suggestions....

- Refer your hearing impaired child to professionals for help.
- Observe and participate in your child's speech training.



Prepare Your Child for Self-Discovery

All children love to explore themselves in their environment. During this stage, an opportunity to teach them to talk takes place. You can start asking questions, describing your child's performance like playing with toys, painting, collecting flowers, dancing, etc. and you will find your child responding you interestingly. The child with hearing impairment will be encouraged to talk more and more when engaged in his/her interesting activities with you.

Suggestions

- Allow your child to handle & do things by himself/herself.
- Let your child explore the environment and learn more.
- Don't overprotect or reject your child.
- Don't be inconsistent in your attitude.
- Don't teach your child too much at a time.
- Don't exaggerate while speaking.
- Don't criticize your child while she/he is talking.
- Do not correct your child all the time.
- Talk naturally and in a normal manner.



More than anything, remember your child needs your love, affection and attention.





अली यावर जंग राष्ट्रीय वाक् एवं श्रवण दिव्यांगजन संस्थान
ALI YAVAR JUNG NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING
DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)

(दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous body under the Department of empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
(Divyangjan),

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

K.C. Marg, Bandra (W) Reclamation Mum:400050

Phone : 022- 26400228 / 69102100

E-mail : ayjnihh-mum@nic.in

Web: <https://ayjnishd.nic.in/>