

If you are worried because your child is not talking take him to see a Speech and Language Therapist.

For further information please contact:

Speech and Language Therapist.  
ENT Department,  
New Mulago Hospital,  
Kampala.

Department of Special Education.  
I. T. E. K.  
Box 1, Kyambogo,  
Kampala.

National Union of Disabled People of Uganda  
(NUDIPU)  
Luzira  
Box 8567  
Kampala.

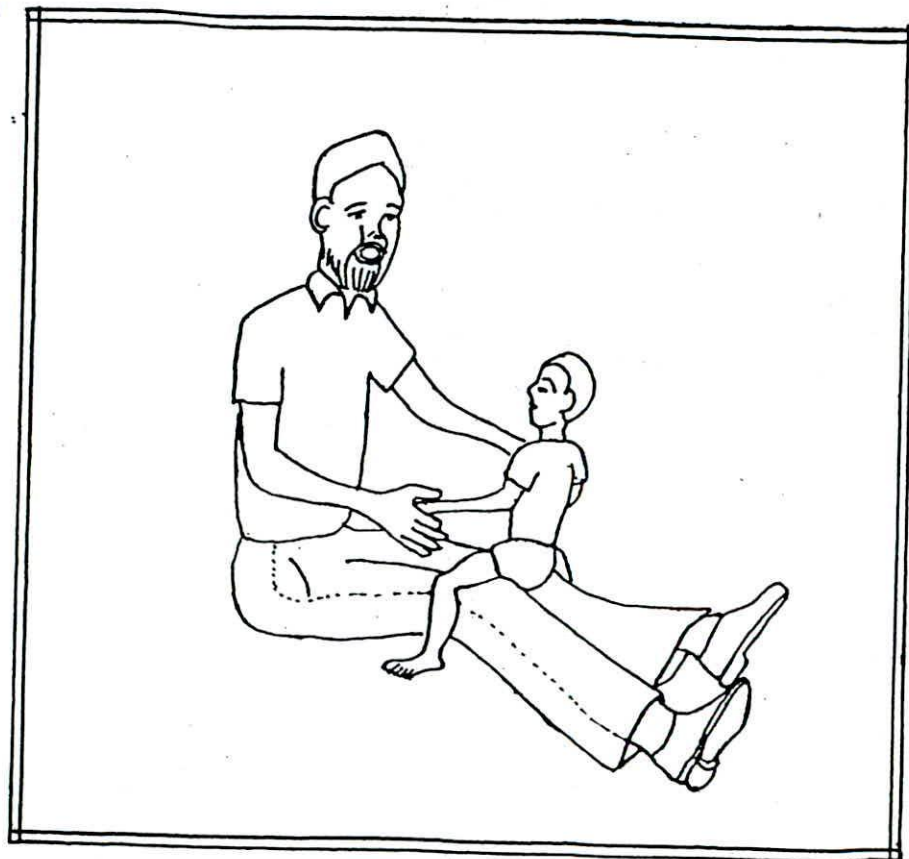
Text adopted from a leaflet by Pam Bauer (Speech and Language Therapist)  
Illustrations by Sserwaniko Kenneth.

# TEACHING YOUR CHILD TO TALK



Your child needs you for everything. Do not take his ability to speak for granted. You must teach him to talk.

Talking should be fun. Reward your child by showing him how pleased you are with his attempts to speak.



Do not discourage him by criticising the way he talks.



At about 4 years of age many children go through a period when they stutter. They fall over their words when they learn to talk in their same way they fall over their feet when they learn to walk.



If your child is doing this, do not tell him to stop and start again...let him take his time and show that you are listening to what he has to say.

Talk to him from the time he is born. At first he will not talk back to you but he will be learning in all sorts of ways.



While he is sucking and swallowing he will be developing the muscles he will later use for speaking. He will be listening to what you say. If he does not seem to be listening to the sounds around him take him to the hospital for a hearing test.

Your baby will soon start to make noises with his mouth. He needs lots of practice at this if he is to learn to speak.

Encourage him to make sounds, copy his sounds, see if he can copy yours.



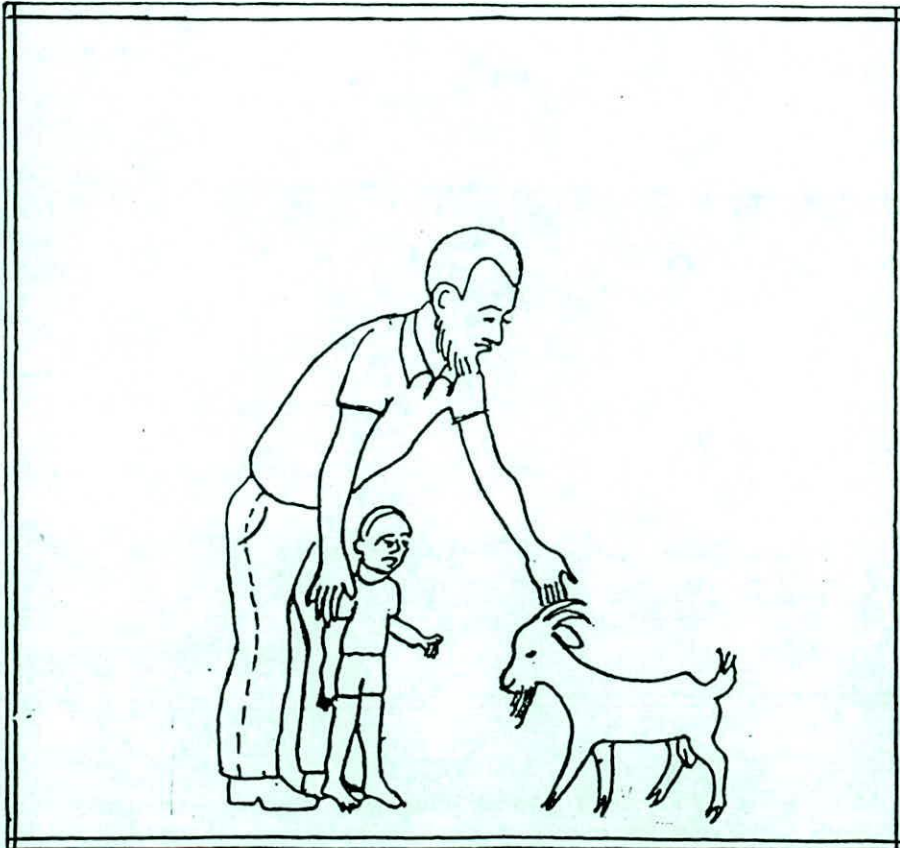
Some children are slow to talk or put words together into sentences. They may have a problem saying words clearly.



If your child is like this keep talking to him and give him lots of opportunities to talk to you. Praise his attempts to speak and do not keep correcting the way he says things.



Talk about anything and everything. It is surprising how much there is to know about the simplest thing. Look at a goat - it is an animal, it is small, it has four legs a head and a tail, it is brown, we eat it and it eats everything.



Once he starts to talk remember it is the number of words that is important not how well he pronounces them. At this stage encourage him to talk as much as he can. It does not matter if you cannot understand all that he says. His speech will get clearer as he gets older and has more practice.



Do not worry if he can not pronounce all his sounds correctly. Let him hear you say them correctly. Do not keep correcting him.