

SAM AND DINA (TEXT)

“Sam,” said my mother “look after Dina, your baby sister. She is four months old. Play with her.”

She was little but I still played with her. I put a blanket on the ground. She lay on the blanket. She smiled. Her eyes moved as she looked at the leaves in the trees. I made her a toy like this. (PICTURE)

The bits were different colours and shapes. She laughed and laughed.

I sang to her. I talked to her. I made funny noises. I hid my face with my hand and then peeped out. I played with her fingers and toes. She laughed and laughed and laughed

Why don't you make a toy like Sam did! It is called a mobile.

Sam,” said my mother, “look after your baby sister. She is four months old. Keep her safe”

I watched her when she lay on the blanket. I made sure that ants did not come and bite her. I kept the dirty flies away.

She always put things in her mouth. Her teeth were coming. I made her something to bite on that also made a noise. I found a small, strong plastic bottle with round end. I put big dry beans in it. I put on the cap very very tightly so that Dina could never get it off. (PICTURE)

Sometimes little children can fall ill quickly. My older sister taught me the signs. She learns them in school. So when the baby feels very hot, or breathes very quickly or smells bad, I must call my mother. She calls me “my little doctor.”

Why don't you make something that makes a noise like Sam did?

“Sam,” said my mother, “look after your baby sister, Dina. She is nine months old. Play with her.”

Now she was crawling and trying to stand . I helped her. I found her a box to put things in. I found round stones. I made sure that they were too big for her to put in her mouth. I never let her have tiny things or sharp things. She can put in her ears or swallow them. I made her a dog. (PICTURE) I got some old clean cloth and some cotton. I cut two pieces out. I sewed them together but I left a hole. I put the cotton in the hole. I sewed it all up. My mother helped me. Perhaps you do not think it looks like a dog. It only has two legs. Don't worry. Dina loves it. She takes it to bed at night.

Sam made a dog. Why don't you make a doll?

Sam” said my mother “look after your baby sister, Dina. She is nine months old. Keep her safe”

Let me tell you. This was not easy. You needed eyes in the back of your head. She was quiet. You were talking with your friends. Then you looked. She was not there. She was crawling towards:

Something sharp! The fire !! A hot pot !!! My School books !!!!

I learnt to think like her. “I am Dina,” I said to myself “Where will I crawl? “

Then I put things where she could not reach them, I tried to make her think of something else or I spoke to her in an angry voice. “NO, Dina NO,” but I would never, never smack her

At home pretend you are Dina . Where would you like to crawl ? What is dangerous for you?

“Sam,” said my mother, “look after your little sister. She is sixteen months old. Play with her.”

Now Dina can walk. She even tries to run. Sometimes she falls down. She laughs and tries to run again. I pick her up.

I make her a ball to throw. I make her a hoop. I talk to her all the time.

She talks back in her own way. I don't understand what she says but I think she can say, “Sam.”

Here is a pull along toy that makes a noise. Can you make one? (PICTURE)

“Sam” said my mother “look after your baby sister. She is sixteen months old. Keep her safe. Keep her away from the kitchen. Keep her away from the road. They are dangerous places”

In the kitchen I made sure that Dina cannot reach the cooking pots. I put all sharp things out of her reach. I put all bottles away. There are none on the floor. Dina could drink from them. I covered the food from flies. I say to Dina ““Come out of there. Let's go and play outside but not near the road.”

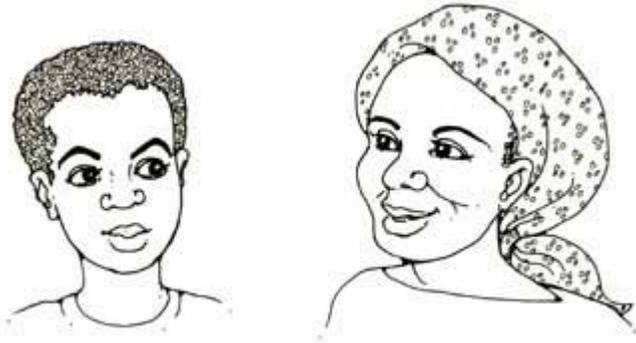
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“SAM,” SAID MY MOTHER,. “YOU ARE MY STAR. .YOU ARE THE BEST BROTHER DINA COULD HAVE. THANK YOU. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A NEW FOOTBALL. NOW GO OUT AND PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Story by Hugh Hawes based on other stories from Child-to-Child . Illustrations by Dandi Palmer

Below the story is set out for printing . See Making *Your Own Books*.

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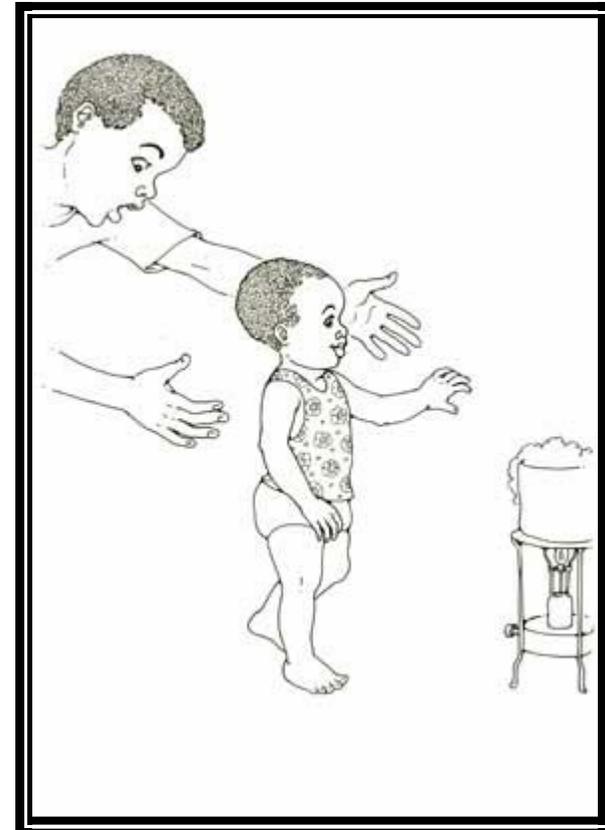


Other books in the series

Filthy the fly
Wally the Worm
I had a flower
The Mango Minders
Old Chicken Eyes
Dirty water
Bad Medicine
Basim and Bloog

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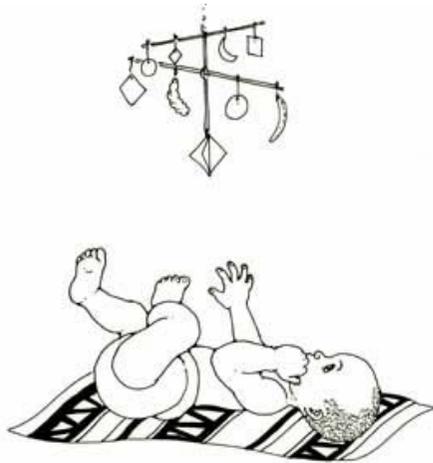
SAM AND DINA



*and how looking after my little sister
made me a star*

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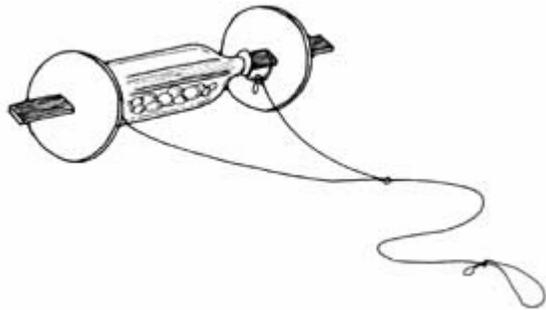
In your house pretend you are baby. What interests you? What is dangerous?

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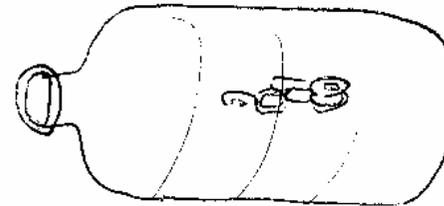
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