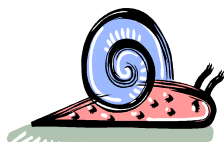
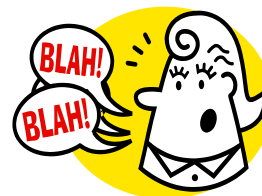


What should you do if your child is stuttering?

- Listen to **what** your child says not **how** he says it.
- Give your child time to finish his sentence without interrupting them. Avoid finishing your child's sentences for him.



- Slow down your own rate of speech. Leave frequent pauses when you speak.
- Maintain good eye contact with your child while she is speaking, in particular when she is stuttering.
- Do not tell your child to stop and start again.
- Do not tell your child to slow down or take a breath. It is a myth that this will help your child's stutter.
- **Always show your child that you are interested in what they have to say. You can do this by keeping eye-contact, nodding, smiling and responding.**
- Do not give your child more attention just because he is stuttering. Behave as you would if he were not stuttering, e.g. if you are washing the dishes, do not stop your work because your child begins to stutter.
- Avoid asking too many questions as this puts your child under pressure when speaking.
- Try not to look concerned or impatient when your child stutters. Avoid discussing your personal concerns for your child's speech in front of him.



Remember:

Children do not stutter for attention or because of laziness. It is important to remember to listen to **what** your child is trying to tell you and to show her encouragement at all times.