TRANSCRIPT FOR “FEEDING A SICK CHILD"

<https://vimeo.com/95253987>

**Hello, I am Naome and I am a mother just like you. I have hopes and dreams for my children just like you do. Those hopes and dreams give me the drive and focus to continue pursuing what is best for my children against all odds. Let us listen to what mothers, fathers, and grandmothers have to say about their dreams and hopes for their children and grandchildren.**

**I wish that my children are able to attain the highest education and be self-reliant in their chosen professions.**

**I would like my grandchildren to live in luxury unlike us who grew up in absolute poverty.**

**I would love to look after my children, watch them grow well, be educated, and get good jobs.**

**I would like to look after them well, see them get well-paying jobs in reputable institutions, and have different professions.**

**When a child attains the hopes and dreams their parents have for them, their parents are immensely joyful. Listen to how other parents feel when their children achieve these hopes and dreams.**

**If only my children would be successful. I wish them happiness and to be able to be self-reliant.**

**Watching my grandchildren living a luxurious life, I would feel happy and extremely proud.**

**I will be respected in the community because they see that I have raised responsible and self-reliant children. Even if I died I would not have any regrets.**

**My children’s success would mean my success as well. They would build for me a modern house and provide for me. I would be recognized in the community.**

**I would feel happy that my dreams have come true—that my children are taking care of me. They would give back to me.**

**I would feel proud because I have responsible, well-educated children with good jobs that the community would be proud of. They would look after me and build me a good home.**

**Good mothers feel good when their children and other people appreciate the work they have done in their children’s life. Let us listen to other parents talk about a great parent.**

**A great mother is one who takes care throughout the pregnancy, attends all antenatal visits, and delivers her baby in the health facility. She exclusively breastfeeds her child for the first six months.**

**A great parent educates, imparts good behavior to her children, and is respected in the community because of her children.**

**A great parent is one who gives birth to children who ultimately are successful in all aspects of their life.**

**A great parent is able to feed and educate his or her children, takes them for medical care when they are sick, and helps them succeed.**

**Hopes and dreams for their children are what exist behind the acts of great mothers. As parents we try to be strong and support what is best for our children especially when they are sick. Let us listen to what parents feel when their children are sick.**

**When a child is sick, he/she will not play and he/she will fail to suckle on the breast. I feel so bad and my heart is filled with sadness.**

**When I arrive home and find my child sick I feel so bad that my heart is filled with gloom.**

**When my child is sick she fails to eat or drink. I feel sad and am chilled to my bones.**

**When my child is sick I feel bad.**

**When my child is sick I cannot eat or drink or work until my child is back to normal.**

**When I find my grandchild sick my heart is saddened because I know we can easily lose the child.**

**When I go home and find my grandchild sick I become extremely sad.**

**When I find my child sick I am really sad because this is my flesh and blood. I am especially sad when the child fails to eat or drink anything that I offer.**

**I get worried and unhappy especially when I see my child is lying down because he is sick.**

**When my child is sick my social and work life come to a standstill. I have to stay at home and take care of my child and nurse him back to health.**

**I cannot have a normal life when my child is sick.**

**The first thing I do when I find my child is sick is to take him to the health facility in spite of all the worries and sadness that the child’s sickness causes me.**

**We all agree that when a child is sick parents are sad and uncertain about what to do. Let us listen to some of the questions parents ask each other when their children are sick.**

**My wife asks me for money to take the child to the health facility. It is my responsibility to look for and provide this money.**

**She usually asks, “What should we do since the child is sick?” She also asks if we have money so I also say what I have and support her to make our baby well.**

**The first and foremost question my wife asks is: how we shall take the child to the health facility when we have no money?**

**I usually ask other mothers if their children have ever suffered from the same condition. I ask them how it progressed. I show the baby to my mother-in-law and ask her what I can do. My husband usually asks me when the sickness started.**

**I usually ask around to see if anyone might know what is ailing my child. I ask where I can get treatment for the illness. I ask my mother-in-law what she used to give to her children when they had a similar sickness.**

**When our children fall sick, our daughter-in-law asks us for advice.**

**There are some unusual and funny things that parents do when their children are sick so that they can get better. Let us listen to what other parents tell us about these things.**

**They tell us about strange diseases and how strangely they are treated. At times they say that there are things growing in the child’s throat and they have to be removed by reaching down into the child’s throat using two fingers. They talk about false teeth that have to be removed using unsterilized equipment by a traditional healer. For me, I do not believe in these diseases.**

**Sometimes they tell us to slaughter a goat or cow, eat the meat, and the child will get better. When they do this and coincidently the child gets better, they think that there is no need to go to the health facility.**

**They often tell mothers to look for bitter herbs, to squeeze them, and then feed them to the sick child. I normally tell them to seek medical care before looking for any other remedies.**

**The associate intestinal worms with witchcraft and believe the child’s stomach is swollen by evil spirits. They seek treatment from traditional healers for this. I always advise them to go to the health facility and stop these other practices.**

**When a child is sick some people believe that if the child spits in the mouth of a certain bird the cough will go away.**

**Some believe that diseases are caused by wild chickens and that to cure the child they must hunt for and prepare that chicken and then feed it to the child with its soup.**

**Some parents smear herbs on the child and put them in the nostrils of the baby to cure the baby of an illness. This is an ancient practice that I have not seen in a long time.**

**When a child is sick everyone in the home becomes worried, sad, and uncertain about what to do, especially the parents and grandparents. It is every parent’s desire to know what they can do to save their child’s life. Let us listen to what the doctor has to say about what we should do.**

**When a child is sick it is important that the child is taken to the health facility to be examined to diagnose the illness and determine treatment. The mother should increase the frequency of breastfeeding and for those children who have started eating the frequency of meals should be increased. The parents should keep close to the baby to monitor the baby’s progress.**

**Being a great mother is the first source of happiness in a mother’s life. Thank you for being part of this discussion today with other great mothers as we celebrate our role in bringing about positive change in the lives of our children.**