

Learning by Ear – Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea

Episode 03 “Taking Lives”

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Scene	Characters	
1	1. EDITH 2. CHEMU 3. NARRATOR 4. EDDI	
2	1. DR SALLY 2. EDDI 3. CHEMU 4. NARRATOR 5. EDITH	SAM – 17, m. EDITH – 40, f. MARIA – 43, f. EDDI– 36, m.
3	1. DR SALLY 2. EDITH 3. EDDI	DR SALLY – 34, f. CHEMU – 15, f.
4	1. CHEMU 2. DR SALLY 3. NARRATOR 4. ANNOUNCER	ANNOUNCER – m. NARRATOR
5	1 EDDI	

Learning by Ear 2010 –Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea
Radionovela: Episode Three – Taking Live

	2	CHEMU	
	3	DR SALLY	
	4	EDITH	
	5	NARRATOR	

INTRO

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

01. NARRATOR

HELLO AND WELCOME TO EPISODE **THREE** OF OUR “LEARNING BY EAR” SERIES ON HYGIENE AND DIARRHOEA. IN THE LAST EPISODE BABY FATU, WHO WAS SUFFERING FROM DIARRHOEA, WAS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL BY UNCLE EDDI, THE COMMUNITY WORKER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW OF EDITH, FATU’S MOTHER. FATU’S ELDER BROTHER, SAM, IS STILL LYING IN BED WEAK WITH DIARRHOEA.

BUT WILL BABY FATU SURVIVE? LET’S JOIN EDDI AND THE FAMILY AT THE HOSPITAL.

LISTEN ON AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAUSES, CURES AND PREVENTION OF DIARRHOEA AS WE FOLLOW THE STORY OF SAM AND HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

SCENE 1: HOSPITAL TRIAGE UNIT

**02. SFX: BABY CRIES, BACKGROUND SIRENS, HOSPITAL
NOISES ETC. AND FAR AWAY SOUNDS OF
AMBULANCE AND CRACKING
INTERCOMS**

03. EDITH (silently crying) I nearly killed my baby... I can not lose another member of my family, first Baba Sam now my baby.... .Eddi, what do I do now?... What are they doing to my baby?

04. EDDI Edith, please calm down, they are running some tests.

05. EDITH What tests? Why don't they just give her some medicine and let me take her home?

06. EDDI They have to find out which types of parasites or bacteria have infected her. Then they will be able to prescribe the right medication for her.

07. EDITH You mean, Maria's ash bananas were not going to heal her?

- 08. EDDI** Baby Fatu should have been here in hospital within seven days of suspecting diarrhoea. Diarrhoea is a serious business, you should not trust home remedies. Those ash bananas might be a good home remedy for other things, but definitely not for this type of diarrhoea.
- 09. EDITH** But my friend Maria was so sure and determined. She kept trying one remedy after another. Ooh, my child. Chemu, I know your mother intentions were good.
- 10. CHEMU** God help the baby.
- 11. EDDI** The Doctors must also check how much damage has been done to her body by the germs.
- 12. EDITH** My poor child. I'm such a bad mother.
- 13. EDDI** Sshhhh don't say that. You are a good mother, you just did not know enough about diarrhoea to protect your children.
- 14. EDITH** But, but.. where did these germs come from? I do not keep any at home.
- 15. EDDI** (chuckles sadly) They are everywhere.

16. CHEMU They are on our hands. Our teacher said when you do not wash your hands you can get diarrhoea. Edith, I told you we should wash our hands and you refused...

17. EDDIE Chemu, not now... not now... I think they are ready for us. Let's go see the doctors. We are lucky my wife is on duty today.

BRIDGE MUSIC

SCENE 2: DR SALLY'S OFFICE

18. SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING.

19. EDITH Dr. Sally, Dr Sally please tell me my baby will be ok. Please. She will be ok, won't she?

20. DR. SALLY Baby Fatu is receiving medical attention but... I must say, she does not look good. She is not good at all. Why did you not bring her to hospital earlier?

21. CHEMU Auntie Sally, they wouldn't listen to me. I told them that teacher said.....

22. EDDI Not now Chemu... not now. Let's hear what Dr. Sally has to say.

23. DR SALLY Well, Baby Fatu is very dehydrated. We have taken her to the Intensive Care Unit.

24. EDITH Oh, good heavens. I want to see her. I want to see her now!

BRIDGE MUSIC

SCENE 3: PAEDIATRICS ICU

25. SFX: BABY CRIES. ICU MACHINES BEEPS

26. EDDI She is over there, the cot in the corner.

27. EDITH Oh dear Lord, what have they done to her?
What have I done? She has tubes in her
like....What are they doing to her?

28. EDDI Sssshhhh don't panic. They have put her on
intravenous drugs and fluids.

29. EDITH **(crying)** Eddi, I want my Baby. I want her to
get well. I want to hold her... please, please..
let's take her home. I promise I will take good
care of her. I promise.

30. EDDI **(firmly)** The best place for this child now, is
right here, here in the hospital.

31. NARRATOR SO, EDITH TOOK HER PLACE NEXT TO THE BABY'S COT AND TRIED TO KEEP HER HOPES UP. MEANWHILE, IN THE WAITING ROOM, CHEMU TOOK HER CHANCE TO ASK ABOUT WHAT SHE SAW IN THE PEDIATRICS UNIT.

SCENE 4: HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

32. SFX: FAR AWAY SOUNDS OF AMBULANCE AND INTERCOMS

33. CHEMU Auntie Sally, have Uncle Eddi and Fatu's Mum gone to see Baby Fatu?

34. DR SALLY Yes, they have. But she is very sick. You can see her later, not now.

35. CHEMU Aunty Sally?

36. DR SALLY Yes, Chemu?

37. CHEMU I heard them saying she was on a drip. What is a drip?

- 38. DR SALLY** Chemu, sometimes when we get very sick, like when we get diarrhoea, we lose most of the fluid from our bodies. You see, a large part of our body is made up of fluids or water. So, if we lose most of it, our body cannot function properly. It's like a car without petrol or oil. We must help the body replace the lost fluid, so the doctors have put a tube with fluid into the baby.
- 39. CHEMU** But, why don't you just give her cups of water?
- 40. DR SALLY** It's not just plain water Baby Fatu is getting from the drip. The fluid has medicines and nourishment. Did you notice that Baby Fatu was not only passing stool a lot but was also not eating well?
- 41. CHEMU** Oh, she just cried, *pow-powed*, slept, woke up, cried and *pow-powed* some more.

- 42. DR SALLY** So you see, she needs food as well. She needs strength and nutrients as well as stuff to kill the parasites and bacteria in her body. Since the food does not stay long in her body, we have to find a way in which the food can remain long enough for the body to take in the nutrients. She is therefore given these in the tubes which go directly into the blood.
- 43. CHEMU** Auntie Sally, you are so clever, I want to be a Doctor like you. I want to....
- 44. SFX: A RUSH OF FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS THEM**
- 45. EDITH** **(Crying loudly)** SALLY..... Sally... Sally... come... come quickly.... My baby... my baby is dying, come... come..
- 46. CHEMU** What ... what is happening?
- 47. EDDI** Sally, honey, this way quick... quick ..it's Baby Fatu. Its bad.. very bad.
- 48. SFX: INTERCOM CRACKS TO LIFE.**
- 49. HOSPITAL ANNOUNCER/INTERCOM** DR SALLY
MWANKA... DR SALLY MWANKA... please report to the Peadiatrics Ward. Dr. Sally for the Peadiatrics Ward.

50. SFX. MANY FOOTSTEPS RUSH AWAY

BRIDGE MUSIC OF SAD NATURE

51. NARRATOR DIARRHOEA HAS TAKEN AWAY YET ANOTHER CHILD OF AFRICA. BABY FATU HAS JOINED THE STATISTICS OF THE MANY CHILDREN THAT DIE DUE TO DIARRHOEA, A MAJOR KILLER IN AFRICA. A SICKNESS, THOUGH, THAT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

SCENE 5: DR SALLY'S OFFICE

52. CHEMU (**Crying**) Baby Fatu is dead.... It can't be.

53. EDITH (**whimpering**) It's me, it's my fault. I should have acted earlier. Now I have brought death to my family again.

54. EDDI There ... there, now, my sister. Take heart. What God gives, he also takes.

55. CHEMU (**sniffling**) ... that is not fair. He gives, he takes and he gives diarrhoea. Why did he not take diarrhoea away and leave Baby Fatu with us? (**cries**).

- 56. DR SALLY** Edith, I wish there is something I could do. We tried our best. It was just too late. I wish I had known about Baby Fatu's illness earlier.
- 57. CHEMU** (**angry**) It is not fair... not fair....
- 58. DR SALLY** I should have visited you more often. Then I would have....
- 59. EDDI** Sally, please don't blame yourself. I am the one who should have visited them more often. She is my brother's widow. I am supposed to take care of them. I should have been closer to them..
- 60. CHEMU** (**screams suddenly**) Ooh no.. I'm going to die, Auntie Sally, I'm dying.. I'm dying ... please help.
- 61. EDDI** Stop it, stop! Chemu
- 62. DR SALLY** (**alarmed**) Chemu, why do you think you are dying?
- 63. CHEMU** I touched Baby Fatu. I didn't wash my hands. Teacher said.....(stops)
- 64. DR SALLY** Teacher said what?

- 65. CHEMU** It's in the song:
- (rapping)** Wash your hands.
Only washed hands
should be used,
to eat.
Careless people
Don't wash their hands
after visiting the toilet.
Keep healthy.
Wash your hands.
- 66. DR SALLY** Look here, Chemu. That's a good song. You should teach it to all the children. Now, go and use that sink and wash your hands. You are not dying. I am here. I am your Auntie and Doctor. Ok?
- 67. EDITH** **(wailing)** My baby is gone, my baby is gone...
- 68. CHEMU** **(in shock)** Sam!!!!
- 69. EDDI** Now what? What about Sam?
- 70. CHEMU** Sam!!! Sam!!!.....he's dying... He is going to die! Oh no... Sam!!.. No, not Sam....
- 71. DR SALLY** **(interrupts)** Chemu... what do you mean..?
What ... where is Sam?

- 72. EDITH** (wailing) No.... no... not my Sam as well...
now everyone is dead... God take me as
well... give me this diarrhoea and let me join
my children. Baba Sam... I am coming
now...(wails more).
- 73. EDDI** Chemu, ... tell us, what about Sam, where is
he? What is wrong with him?
- 74. CHEMU** Sam.. Sam..dying... in bed... at home..
diarrhoea is killing him, too.
- 75. DR SALLY** Oh no. Eddi, get the car, let's go.
- 76. EDITH** (wailing)... Oooiiii... oiiiiii, the devil has visited
my home again. Diarrhoea, you are the devil...
devil go away, go away. Diarrhoea you
devil.... You killer.....
- 77. DR SALLY** Come... come on Edith... Let's go get Sam.
- 78. EDITH** I won't leave Baby Fatu... but I need Sam... I
can't go...ooh what shall I do now (cries).
- 79. DR SALLY** Fatu is in good hands. The hospital will take
care of her.. her body. We must now go and
save Sam. Let's go... let's... go....Please
Edith. We have to go and get Sam before it
too late...

BRIDGE MUSIC – FAST PACED

OUTRO:

80. NARRATOR POOR EDITH. THINGS ARE VERY BAD FOR HER AT THE MOMENT, BUT SHE NOW HAS TO WORRY ABOUT THE LIVING AND LEAVE THE HOSPITAL STAFF TO DEAL WITH HER POOR DEAD BABY. SAM MUST BE SAVED. AFRICA HAS LOST A CHILD IN BABY FATU, BUT AFRICA MUST NOT LOSE THE TEENAGER AS WELL. THEY MUST GET SAM TO MEDICAL HELP QUICKLY.

TUNE IN TO OUR NEXT EPISODE OF OUR 'LEARNING BY THE EAR' SERIES ABOUT HYGIENE AND LEARN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO SAM.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO LISTEN TO THE PREVIOUS EPISODES OR ANY OTHER STORIES OF LEARNING BY EAR, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.dw-world.de/lbe. THERE YOU CAN ALSO SEND US YOUR COMMENTS. FOR NOW, GOODBYE!