

1. O LORD JESUS, PLEASE HELP ME give an honest, factual and spirit-led account of this extremely serious affliction in Little David's life. It's very hard to re-live this tragic experience because I know we were to blame for making the mistakes we did. Now that I have reviewed these notes from his daily log, I can see even more clearly how we could have prevented these serious mistakes and been more helpful to Davidito when he was so needy of love and compassion and under such emotional stress.

2. THE HISTORY OF THIS STORY begins in about mid-May of 1977 when Davidito was 2 years 4 months old and we had just settled in our new location near Lisboa, Portugal, and Alfred's and my 14-month-old baby girl, who had been separated from us for two months, rejoined us there.

Because we did not have room for more staff members to help in caring for Baba, after a few days visit with us we all decided it was best for her to live in a nearby Family Home in the care of a sweet single sister and a married couple who had three children, two of whom were older than Davidito.

3. WE MET IN THAT HOME several older school-aged children when we went there to pick up Baba on the weekends. Since Davidito had never been around many other children besides Baba, much less older children, we were all very concerned at what kind of influence the kids would have on him. Younger children idolize older children and imitate them in everything, good or bad. MO and Maria never were too keen on the idea of him playing especially with older children whose bad

habits he might easily pick up, being such a sensitive receiver, and because David was already such a well-behaved child and seemed so adult in every way.

4. DURING THIS TIME, however, he had become quite clingy with Alfred and me and was very jealous over anyone else taking our attention from him. We noticed soon that Davidito was resorting to a funny type of baby talk in mimicry of little Baba, who was just learning to say a few words. Also he was quite whiney and sometimes outright hateful and disobedient in an attempt to gain our attention and have us reassure him that we still loved him more than any other of the children.

5. WELL, SORRY TO SAY, some of the older school children were quite rambunctious and oftentimes disobedient and badly behaved when with their parents there on the weekends and away from their school teachers who took care of them most of the time.

6. ONE LITTLE BOY about three years old, although fairly well-behaved, had a definite stammering speech impediment and difficulty in speaking clearly at all, to the point that hardly anyone could understand what he was saying.

7. IT WAS QUITE SURPRISING to me to see a child of this age unable to express himself clearly, as little David at only 2 years and 5 months old could speak very clearly and even used a rather advanced vocabulary.

8. WHEN I LOOKED INTO THIS LITTLE BOY'S PAST, I found that his mother and daddy had separated and she had given the child to the custody of the local

school and expected the father to care for him during the weekends, and left both behind.

9. THE DADDY WAS EXTREMELY BUSY in very important publications work, a very faithful, sincere, dedicated brother who loved his son dearly and really wanted to do the best he could for him, but was just not able to give the boy the fulltime attention that he needed.

10. WHAT HE REALLY NEEDED WAS A "REAL MOTHER", but apparently he had not gotten the special attention that he needed, and the result was this drastic stammering type of speech impediment.

11. I FELT VERY SORRY and burdened for the child when I saw how badly afflicted he was, so I tried to show him a little extra attention when I visited the Home on the weekends. What I did not realize at all at the time, however, was how very, very seriously and dangerously this affected the Little Prince!

12. KNOWING HOW SENSITIVE AND JEALOUS and insecure Davidito felt at this stage, it's hard to believe how I myself could have been so insensitive to his needs, but after only six short visits of just being around the stammerer for not more than 30 minutes total time,

13. DAVIDITO HIMSELF BEGAN TO STAMMER in his speech and soon was not able to speak a full sentence without stumbling over his words or resorting to a type of simple baby talk!

14. IT WAS ABOUT MID-JULY that we first began to notice this affliction in his speech. Davidito was extremely nervous during this time, perhaps due to several new experiences he had gone

