

To the Children who use this Book

When Jocelyn Bell and I were young, old people, looking solemnly over their spectacles, used to say: "Children should be seen and not heard". It never quite worked out that way, at least not in my family, for I remember there were many times when we all talked at once.

But, unlike your great-great-grandfathers, we believe that children should be *heard* as well as seen and we also believe that how you speak and what you say is more important than if you have a pretty face or own a television set. But learn how to *listen*, too.

So here is this book for you. The jingles and sentences are for you to say over and over again, but don't be parrots, will you? Lively minds will make your faces, and especially your eyes, tell us all about it.

Most of the children whose names are used are *real* children for whom the rhymes were first written, though Marianna is not quite as good in real life as she is in the first verse nor quite as careless as she is in the second.

Ask your teacher if you can begin your lesson with the 'Jingle Bells' song. That will tune you up and make you relax your jaw. So off you go! Rich, smooth voices, no strain, no pinched or pulled lips and no artificial speech.

Make the words your friends!

CHRISTABEL BURNISTON

Acknowledgement

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Vowels

All these sounds need the jaw relaxed. Let it go, look in your hand-mirror and see a good space between your teeth. Keep the tongue tip down.

AH

Open your mouth as if you were going to yawn. Every time you find this sound in the rhymes below, relax your jaw and let the sound come forward.

English is a funny language and you will find this sound spelt and spoken in all sorts of ways

father, **ma**ster, **ba**th, **da**rn, **ca**lm, **he**ar**th**, **au**nt,
clerk, **De**rby; **la**ugh, **ma**rk, **na**sty, **pa**th.

The words bath, aunt, laugh, nasty and path may have a short *ă* where you live. That's all right. Keep them so. You can do this as a jaw and ear exercise.

Read those words then say them into your mirror and watch your jaw drop in the middle of each word.

Father's car is a Jaguar,
And Pa drives rather fast:
Castles, farms and draughty barns
We go charging past.

Arthur's cart is far less smart,
And can't go half as far,
But I'd rather ride in Arthur's cart
Than my Papa's fast car!

Notice the 'er' saying 'ah' in Derby, clerk and Berkshire, the 'a' saying 'ah' in master and the 'ear' saying 'ah' in heart.

In Derby lived a parson's clerk
Whose master moved to Berkshire:
"Oh, parson, parson, have a heart,
And keep me as your clerk, sir!"

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