

# Callie and her Cleft



By Sarah Simons  
With illustrations by Toby Mann

This book belongs to:

As a medical student Dr Sarah Simons joined the Trent Regional Cleft Network for 2 months.

Callie's story was influenced and informed by everyone Sarah met in the team, it was inspired by Big Smiles families.

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The Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA) is the only national charity supporting people affected by cleft lip and/or palate in the UK.

CLAPA has been given permission to re-print this book to benefit the 1,200 new families who welcome a child with a cleft every year in the UK.

Visit [www.clapa.com](http://www.clapa.com) to find out more about our services all across the UK, including one-to-one support, local groups, family days and more.

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Sam's Mummy is having  
a baby!



Sam is excited to be  
a big brother.

Today Mummy is going to the doctor to get a picture of the baby in her tummy.



Mummy says they will find out if it is a boy or a girl.



Mummy and Daddy come home with lots of paper and books. Mummy shows Sam a picture.

He is going to have a little  
sister!

Daddy says that Sam's  
sister is going to look  
different. Her smile will be  
special.

The Doctors said that  
Sam's sister will have a  
cleft lip and palate.

Daddy explains that as Sam's sister was growing her lip didn't close properly like Sam's did.



This means that she will have a little gap under her nose and one inside her mouth.



Mummy says it doesn't hurt  
and this is what will make her  
smile look different.



Mummy says Sam's sister is a  
good baby. They are all  
excited to meet her.

Some people visit Mummy  
at home when she is  
pregnant.



They are all very kind and  
answer lots of questions!

The lady shows Sam a picture of a cleft lip, just like his sister will have.

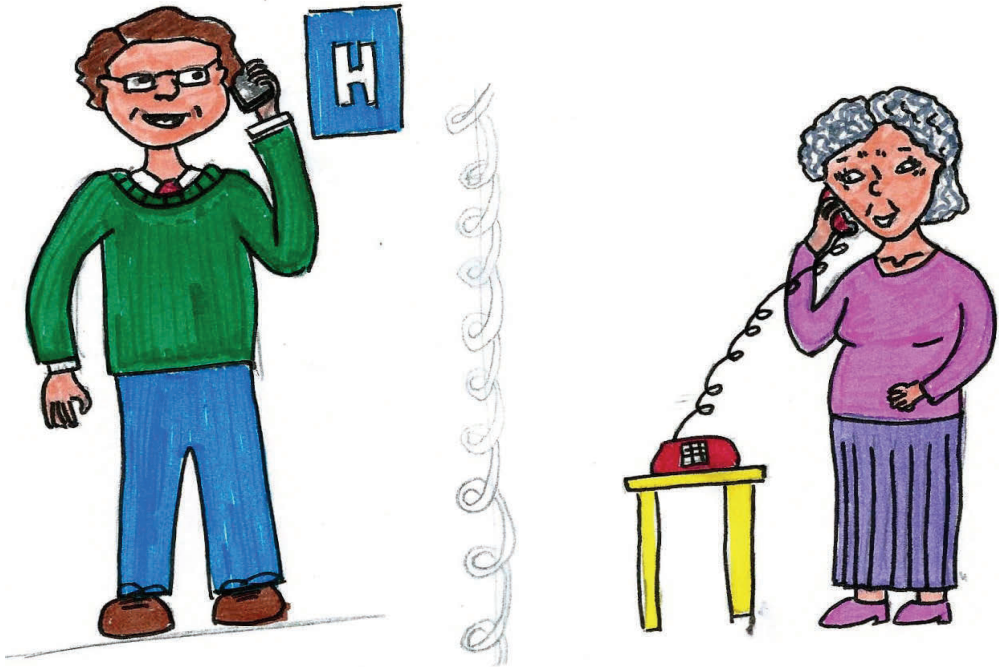


Mummy shows Sam a picture of him as a baby and Sam can see how his sister will look a little bit different.

Soon Mummy and Daddy go  
to the hospital to have the  
baby!

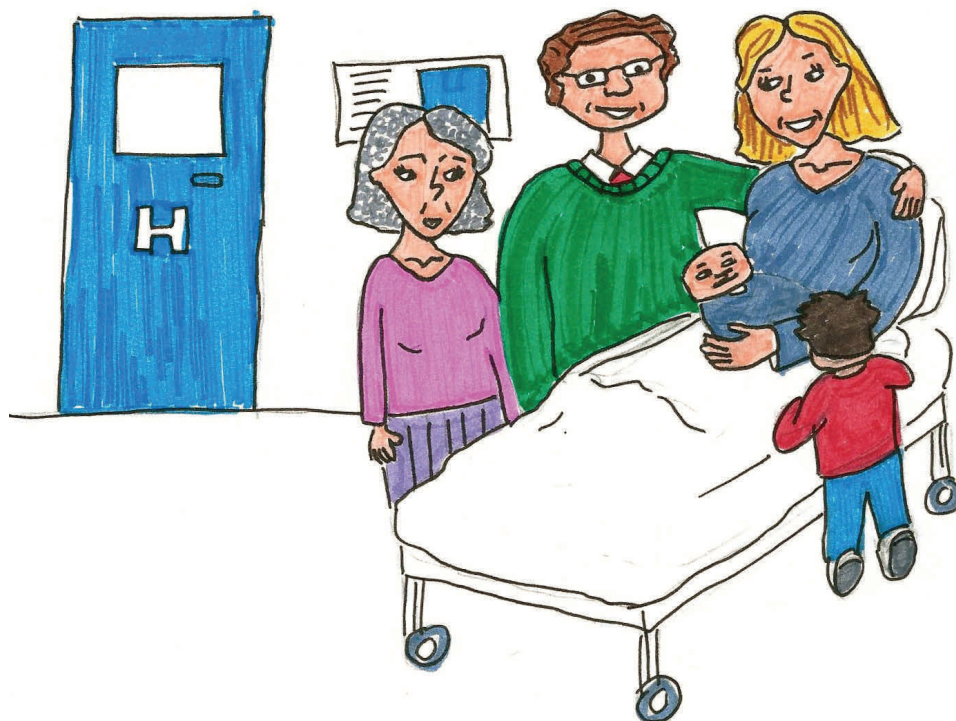
Sam has a sleepover at  
Grandma's house.





The next morning Daddy  
phones Grandma to tell  
her Sam's sister has been  
born!

Grandma and Sam go to visit the new baby. Her name is Callie.



She does look different from the other babies. Sam says she is the most beautiful baby in the hospital.

Mummy and Daddy bring  
Callie home.

Callie has special bottles to  
help her drink because of her  
mouth.

This is so  
she can  
grow big  
and strong.



Sam loves playing with Callie.



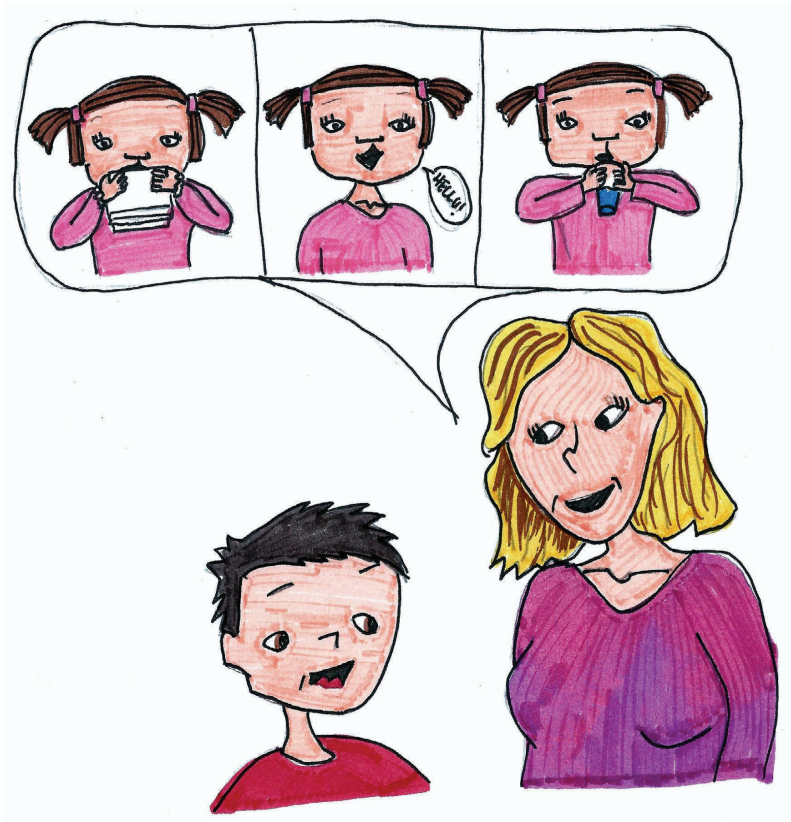
Mummy says he is a super  
big brother.



When Callie is bigger Mummy and Daddy take her to see the doctors.



Mummy says that even though Callie is perfect, she will need two operations on her mouth.



They will help her to eat and talk properly when she is bigger.

When Callie has her operations she will have some medicine to go to sleep and have lots of dreams. The doctors will close the gap in her lip first.



Afterwards Callie will stay in hospital before Mummy and Daddy bring her home.

Sam helps Mummy and Daddy look after Callie at home.



She has some sticky glue on her face and some special medicine.

This makes her feel comfortable.

Soon Callie is feeling better and she is playing with Sam! Sam still thinks Callie is the most beautiful baby.





When Callie is bigger she has to go to hospital again. Mummy says this is to close the hole inside her mouth.

It is her last operation for a long time.

As Callie gets older and starts to walk she makes some funny noises. Mummy says that because of her different smile Callie needs help talking.



Sam goes with Callie to her lessons - they are fun!

Callie's speech gets much better as she keeps going to her special lessons.

Soon she won't stop talking!







On Callie's third birthday  
she has a big party with  
her friends and a  
beautiful cake.

Everyone sings "Happy  
Birthday Callie" and Callie  
sings along too!





Callie and her Cleft was written to help explain to brothers and sisters what happens when a new baby with a cleft lip and palate joins the family.

It was produced by Nottingham Children's Hospital and printed by the Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA).



Nottingham  
**Children's**  
Hospital

*Hill Langdale.*