



Ask *What should you do when your child is having a seizure?*



Explain

- During a seizure, protect the child, but do not force movements.
- If needed, lay your child on their side.
- Do not put anything in the child's mouth.
- Turn the child's head to one side.
- Go to the clinic for medication and follow-up with a doctor about medications. It cannot be treated by a visit to a traditional doctor to remove 'evil spirits'.



Ask *What do other people in the community or in your family say about children who have seizures or fits? Use the example from Bangladesh below, or use a case study from your own context to prompt discussion. Do you have any similar experiences to share?*

In Bangladesh, 14% of the children with cerebral palsy also had epilepsy [1]. As in many countries, evidence shows that epilepsy is often stigmatised, and associated with evil spirits. Many parents had spent a significant amount of money visiting traditional doctors to have the evil spirits removed.

“After examining the child, the traditional healer told us that she was encountered by a bad spirit. The healer came to our house many times. He told us, if you sacrifice two pigeons, then your child will be fine. At that time I gave two pigeons But she did not recover. After that I took her to almost 20/30 healers. All of them said the same and gave similar treatments.”

Parent, Bangladesh

¹ Available in the CBM Prevention toolkit on cerebral palsy available at <http://www.cbm.org/Publications-252011.php>