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**Story summary: “A Model Family (Noy)”**

Noy is a well-known, beautiful girl in her rural village. She is not only known for her beauty, but also for being a model student in her school. Noy’s curiosity and knowledge lead her to question why she and her family should face the shame and potential health dangers of defecating in the open. After discussing these issues with her parents, Noy’s father is inspired to take action and build a latrine. Soon, the well-known family is not only providing a model example through their daughter’s performance at school, but through their own healthy and civil actions at home.

**Objectives**

To help the participants/target audience to…

- Know how the benefits of having and using an improved latrine (an essential part of every household) can help improve a family’s quality of life and well-being (convenience, comfort, safety and good health)
- Look for more information on benefits of having and using an improved latrine from their community leader or health volunteer
- Seek information on types of affordable latrines that suits their need from suppliers/sales or equipment shops
- Build and use a latrine. Promote the use of the latrine by family members, and support neighbours to do the same.

**Remember**

- This story is supposed to make learning fun. So be sure to smile, laugh and enjoy reading it with people in your community.
- You can change the names in the story to names more similar to people in your community (however be careful not to make anyone uncomfortable or embarrassed).
- You can create a similar story to this as long as it has a successful ending that has to do with the benefits of constructing and using a latrine.

**Instruction and Steps for storytelling**

If visiting a household, this story is suitable for both father/mother, but may not necessarily be limited to other family members, such as girls, boys and the elderly. The story is about a young Noy and her embarrassing predicament – about pride, status, responsibility for family.

1. **Engage your audience**
   - Know how the benefits of having and using an improved latrine (an essential part of every household) can help improve a family’s quality of life and well-being (convenience, comfort, safety and good health)

2. **Build the scene**
   - Throughout your storytelling, you want to tell your audience the story in a way that makes them feel like they’re there. Start by giving them context when you start your story. Continue to create the scene by using details which help them picture the action and feel the same way as the characters in the story. For example, “This story happened in one village in rural Laos. In the afternoon while the weather was terribly hot like it could scorch the rice fields, Nang Noy, who was a beautiful young girl in the village, suddenly had a very bad stomachache…”

3. **Build tension and release tension**
   - You want to make your audience see the problem and finally the solution in the story. Furthermore, you want to make your storytelling exciting, for example, when the characters are facing a difficult situation, you want to build a feeling of tension. But later the problem or the tension is ultimately overcome, and everyone is happily smiling after they successfully built a latrine.

4. **Emphasize what’s important**
   - After your audience see both the problem and the solution, you want to emphasize key messages or the benefits of having a latrine which will help them improve their lives (convenience, safety and privacy). This will give them good opportunities to have good health, a better quality of life, prosperity, and the pride and dignity of the family leader, demonstrating that they are responsible for their own community as well.

5. **Discuss by asking questions and listening**
   - After your audience knows the end of the story, ask how they feel or what they think about the story. Show them again the opposite situations between before and after having a latrine and how the characters felt and why they decided to solve their problems that way.
   - Ask: “Do you want to listen to another story?”
Story title: “A Model Family (Noy)”

Scene 1: Why can’t poop just be pretty?

• One day, it was a very hot afternoon when Noy’s stomach started to tell her she had to poop, she sat and held her stomach, dreading having to go out looking for a place to relieve herself again.

• “Why can’t poop just be pretty?” she asked herself, thinking of all the open spaces, the bushes and fields, that she was forced to poop in.
Scene 2: Embarrassing Day!

Today, her stomach hurt especially bad. Noy had a stomach ache, and she didn’t have time to run off to find a place in the distant trees like usual. She had to go fast.

She found a large bush near her house, looked around to make sure nobody could see her, and squatted down.

But then suddenly she heard a sound.

“Grrrt… grrrt.” One of the biggest pigs in the village was staring right at her.

“Oh gross! Go away, my poop is too good for you to eat!” Noy yelled at the pig.

Then she heard another sound. She listened closely.

It was people talking. She slowly turned her head. A boy and his father were walking down the nearby path.

“Yuck! What’s that smell?” yelled the boy.

Noy crouched down further in the bush, hoping they wouldn’t see her.

“It’s probably pig poop,” replied the father. The pig was still standing right in front of Noy.

Noy was embarrassed and angry.
Scene 3: Enough pigs!

- Noy broke down crying when she got home, telling her Mom about the pig and the boy and how terrible she felt being compared to a pig.
• When Noy’s father returned home, he found Noy crying....
• “What’s wrong?” asked her father. “Did someone hurt my princess?”
• Noy’s mother explained what happened.
• “Oh, well then, that’s one more reason to tell you about the meeting I’ve come from!” said Noy’s father. “Our village chief has announced that he will help everyone in the village to discuss options for building a latrine. It’s been long enough that we haven’t had one. And even though we don’t have much money, we’ve got to solve this problem and help our village be recognized for its health and sanitation.”
Late the next day, Noy was combing her hair when her mother came running up to her.

“I have something to show you!” her mother said excitedly. “Come quickly.”

Noy put down her comb and followed her mother to the back of the house.

There in front of her was her father busy building a latrine, just like the ones she had seen her friends using in the neighbouring village.

Her father looked up at her and smiled. “No more pigs bothering my princess,” he said.

“Thank you,” said Noy. “But do we have enough money to build it?”

Her father smiled again.

“It might look expensive, but all it requires is a few basic materials,” said her father. “I think every family in our village could have a latrine if they just knew where to get the materials and how to start.”

“And no price is too much to keep people and pig’s away from my princess’s private business,” he added proudly.
• Noy was delighted with the new latrine at her house.

• Noy walked to the latrine. She saw the neighbours looking at her as she entered the new building. She closed the door.

• Soon after Noy’s family finished building their latrine, the neighbours became interested. Noy’s father volunteered to help a few of the surrounding houses to get started building.

• Soon the village was awarded its model village status and noted for being ‘Open Defecation Free’. The village chief even recognized Noy’s father for helping to achieve their collective success.