

# La Leche News

## Mauro - Yes, he can

**Published: 02/08/2011**

Mauro – Yes, he can!  
Born at home with a cleft  
A special kind of breastfeeding

Is a 25 minute DVD (published 2010) from an idea, and with production and text all by Christa Herzog-Isler. Christa Herzog Isler is an IBCLC in Switzerland with extensive experience of helping and supporting babies born with a cleft lip and/or palate to breastfeed.

The DVD follows the story of Mauro and his family as they come to terms with his unexpected differences from when they are first discovered during his mother's pregnancy, through his home birth and first feed to breastfeeding both before and after his corrective surgery.

The DVD contains footage of an ante-natal interview Mauro's parents have with PD Dr. Dr Johannes Kутtenberger, Oral maxillofacial surgeon of Lucerne State Hospital, who will be treating Mauro. The warmth, openness and flexibility of Dr Johannes Kутtenberger, and Christa Herzog-Isler give an insight into a high standard of care for the baby, family and breastfeeding.

There is film from the time of his birth and coverage of his first feed using expressed colostrum. The filming follows the family through early feeding issues through to Mauro's surgery and breastfeeding beyond that. There is also film of him as a two year old showing good speech development. All is organised into distinct sections that are easy to watch as a whole or in each particular part.

The DVD is useful for any training of health professionals into the possibilities of, and the normalisation of breastfeeding in similar circumstances. It is also useful and encouraging for families who may be expecting a baby with lip and palate problems. The dedication from the beginning of the film reads:

"This film about Mauro a cheerful two year old is dedicated to all parents who await an infant with a cleft. There are various ways to give birth to a child and then feed him or her. If breastfed, with expressed mothers milk, or with formula milk, with a fitted oral plate or without... Just as with the different methods of operations to close a cleft defect. The most important factors for a child are to grow up with a feeling of security and to be able to develop self esteem."

The sections on the DVD are as follows:

Born at home with a cleft lip and palate

Welcome Mauro – delivered at home

Commencement of feeding with additional finger feeding

Making the plate for the cleft

Breastfeeding with the assistance of various devices

Lip and Palate operation: A new face

Growth and development, visit to cleft outpatients clinic, talking

Ultrasound diagnosis: Unborn baby with visible cleft of the lip and palate

Reviewed by

Anne Jobling, 30th July 2011