• Let the child first examine someone else's mouth, such as the parent, the nurse or a puppet (Fig. 4-26, *A*), and then examine child's mouth.





**FIG 4-26 A**, Encouraging a child to cooperate. **B**, Positioning a child for examination of the mouth.

• Instruct child to tilt the head back slightly, breathe deeply through the mouth, and hold the breath; this action lowers the tongue to the floor of the mouth without the use of a tongue blade.