

I have been reading everyone else's story with that feeling of dread in my stomach - so here goes with ours (no DKA either). Ewen was our third child, how difficult can one more be we used to laugh!! At 10 months he fractured his leg overnight in his cot, went to bed completely normal work up with a "sore leg" which we then found out was broken. This is a whole different story suffice to say that we did not have a great time with doctors and a full social services inquiry followed. A few weeks before his diagnosis he had been unwell, something viral we thought - calpol and laying on the settee nothing unusual at all it only lasted two days and he was soon fit and well again. A couple of weeks later he started drinking a lot (he was 16 months old) he would finish his beaker of drink at night-time and just scream and scream until he got another one, this went on for a few days and I started to realise something was wrong. He had always gone to bed so well and he just wouldn't settle. He was wet through overnight and we had even had to start changing his nappy in the night as it was so wet. I was reluctant to go to the doctors even though I knew something was wrong given our previous experiences and in the end on the Friday I phoned the health visitor and told her I was concerned about him, told her about the drinking and wet nappies. She said that it was probably a virus but suggested I made a note of how much he was drinking over the weekend and made an appointment for Monday with the GP, she mentioned that Diabetes was possible but extremely rare and that the doctor could do a quick blood test to rule it out. The weekend was no better and of course I had googled diabetes and realised that it was more than likely he had it even though I didn't really want to believe it - Monday morning came and we saw our GP, it was not our normal doctor but one of the other GP, ironically the doctor that ran the diabetic clinics. I duly took my list of how much he had drunk and he didn't even look at it, he said that it was probably viral and when I told him the Health Visitor had suggested a blood test he made me feel like an idiot "we do not inflict blood samples on children unless we absolutely have to" he said from his high horse!! Anyway he

gave us a urine sample pot and we went away feeling like we had wasted his time. I spent the rest of the day chasing Ewen around without a nappy on to get and sample and took it straight down to the doctors. Within half an hour I had a phone call from the nurse at the doctors saying could we bring Ewen straight down as he needed a blood test (the blood test that could have been done in the morning). We took him straight in and they did a blood test - it was HI. All I can really remember is thinking he hasn't had his tea yet and I need to get him his tea..... To give him his due the doctor that we had seen that morning came and apologised to us straight away - he said he had never seen diabetes in such a young child... he explained he had diabetes and that it was for life and we needed to go into hospital straight away. Again I was faffing saying could we just go home and have tea and then go in...But no we needed to go straight away. It is a half hour journey to our nearest hospital and we drove there without saying a word. Total shock..... Anyway we stayed for five days and I don't know how we took all that information in. The DSN would come every day and just give us a few more leaflets, a bit more information, a few more instructions.....I just felt like we would never cope...but we did/do (sort of!!). The only good thing that came out of it was the paediatric consultant we saw was the same consultant we saw when he broke his leg (and the only Doctor who didn't think it was a non accidental injury) and he had wanted us to be referred to Sheffield Children's Hospital metabolic bone clinic but they wouldn't refer us on the strength of one break so when he was diagnosed with diabetes he was able to send us to Sheffield and we got a diagnosis of Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bones)..... So now we have two lifelong incurable conditions but at least we caught his diabetes early on and reading some of the other horrific stories of DKA we can only be grateful for that.