

Nathan's diagnosis was relatively straightforward and a lot less scary than some of the stories others have posted on here. He was 5.

He had spent a half term week with his brother and cousin visiting my mam and dad up north. At the end of the week my parents brought my kids to their cousin's house in Birmingham and hubby and I travelled from here (Surrey) to collect them. My mam told me that Nathan had wet the bed the last two nights he was with them. Nath had been dry at night from a very early age and from memory had never had an accident. My mam wondered if he might have a urine infection or something similar.

We drove down from Birmingham to our house in Surrey on the same day. It's a two/ two and a half hour journey and we normally don't stop. However, about an hour into the journey, Nathan was desperate for the toilet. We stopped at services and after using the toilet he drank down a carton of juice without stopping for breath and then demanded another. I remarked to my OH that something wasn't right. We drove home and Nathan could hardly wait for me to get the key in the front door so he could use the loo.

When the kids were in bed that night, I googled Nathan's symptoms and every result brought up a diabetes website. But I didn't recognise the other associated symptoms such as weight loss and lethargy...looking back of course...Nathan wet the bed again that night.

The next day was a Sunday and I decided to take Nath to the walk in clinic. I mentioned my concerns to my OH, but he thought I was overreacting. He is always right – how I wish he had been on this occasion. OH took our other son for a kick around in the park and Nath and I drove to the clinic. We were seen by a nurse who took a history of excessive weeing and thirst; she then asked about weight loss and tiredness. I said to her I knew why she was asking those questions, but it couldn't be diabetes as I didn't think he'd lost weight and thought he'd been his normal self. She took a urine sample.

When she returned to the room I can't honestly remember now exactly how she worded it. She handed me a letter and said I should hand it in at the hospital. I was obviously in some kind of mild shock because when she asked me had we come by car to the clinic, I asked her if she meant me to go to the hospital today. Yes, today go straight to paediatrics A&E.

Nathan was 'well' at diagnosis. What would have happened if that nurse had sent us away without testing his urine? How is it that with only a three day history of bedwetting and thirst, plus me insisting he hadn't lost weight or been lethargic, she immediately thought to test for D? And yet children on this list who were much more seriously ill and with more of the symptoms, whose parents even suggested diabetes to their doctors, were put at serious risk by their GPs.