

Poppy's diagnosis luckily did not involve DKA. She was 3 and had yet had another bad bout of croup and was given oral steroids (she had been constantly ill since birth). She had never been a child who ran around and never spoke so I took a while to notice the changes in her.

Nigel and I went away for the weekend (our last care free one ever!!) and my Mum commented that Poppy had been eating loads and wondered if she had worms. I didn't take much notice but noted that she was drinking water from every tap she could find. She also fell down the stairs for no reason.

On the Friday of that week we went to the cinema and I got annoyed with Poppy as we spent most of the film in the toilet and getting drinks. When I got home I started putting everything together and for some reason came up with diabetes. I looked it up and Poppy's symptoms matched. I thought I was being silly but rang for a doctor's appointment but they did not have any only urgent ones. So I left it. I was up in the night changing the third wet nappy as I had been doing for last few weeks.

Next morning I decided to phone doctors for a Saturday appointment. The doctor was excellent and tested her urine straight away and diagnosed diabetes. He even let me use his phone to ring Nigel and told me to take her straight up the hospital.

Her blood sugar was 35. I said I thought that was most probably due to the weetos she had eaten for breakfast but was told no it was definitely diabetes.

Next sent up to children's ward and given lots of leaflets and shown by ward sister how to do BM and injections. Sent home after tea and told to come back in each day for 2 days to have her one injection at breakfast time. We finally saw the PSDN after 3 days!

It was very traumatic. However I did not feel that we were given enough info about diabetes. We were not told how to treat highs or lows. I remember treating lows with a mini mars bar and not understanding why it was not working. My friend who is a nurse told me that I needed to treat lows with a sugary drink not the PSDN. We were told to treat highs by going on long walks. The consultant said he always told the older children to jump on a trampoline to bring blood sugars down!! This is why we moved hospitals!