



## Speaking from Experience Asthma in Childhood

### Transcript for chapter 2 of 12: Diagnosis and Acceptance

**Susan (has three children with asthma):** Madeline came home from a visit to the doctor. My husband actually took her up to the hospital one night, because she was coughing so much, at 12 months. He came home and he said, "it's asthma".

**Vladamier (has a son with asthma):** He seemed to develop chest complaints. He wheezed, then all of a sudden he had attacks. In the meantime, obviously when you have chest complaints, as a parent you race your kid off to various doctors and all that. Finally, we came across one that realised that he did have an asthma problem and it was treated accordingly.

**Marilyn (has three sons with asthma) & Matthew:** Because my eldest son, Matthew, had been diagnosed with asthma at a similar age, when he developed asthma, or became sick, I had a good idea that it was asthma. I took him to our local doctor in our small country town, where we live at the moment. And, yes, his diagnosis was with asthma. So, I wasn't entirely shocked.

**Lavinia & Geoff (have two daughters with asthma):** There was always something. In fact, I think she probably coughed consistently for the first two years of her life, because I think we weren't really aware of exactly what was triggering her, and it took me two years to find somebody to say the word, asthma. And, apart from that then, it took me another two years to find a doctor that knew what he was doing.

**Paul, Vicky and Michelle (who has asthma):** For me, it was difficult to believe that it was asthma originally. And I think there was some doubt as to whether it was asthma or something else. I kind of remember at one stage someone saying she was too young to have asthma. It was hard to say what it was going to develop into. I think, apart from that, later on, when it became a bit more severe, then it was obviously asthma.

**Susan:** I actually then, tried to find a GP who would agree with the diagnosis that the hospital had given. And I went from GP to GP and they just said it's another cold, it's a chesty cold. You know, wheezy bronchitis. And she had endless antibiotics to get rid of these colds. Because she was a couger and not a wheezer, we could not get a diagnosis. In those days, you had to wheeze to have asthma.

**Vladamier:** Oh, the relief was at least you'd identified it. It's the same with anything, it's worse not knowing what you've got, because you start all of a sudden imagining all sorts of other dramas. When you can put a name on something, well then you can do something about it.

**Paul, Vicky and Michelle:** I never really had any problem with it, in the sense that so many children do have it, and it was all very mild. All it was, at that stage, was a cough at night. And I thought that was easy, it was fine. It was just about finding the right level of medication.



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**Vladamier:** You come to the realisation that this is not something you can kick. There's no instant cure for this.