

Madhava's Story

Hi, my name is Dwija. I would like to share my story, or rather, my son's story with you. Why? Because it could benefit you or someone you know. And also, because knowledge is empowering and comforting.

My son Madhava was born on the 6th of January 2007. I remember being in particular anxiety about the delivery. Naively I expected that once he was born everything would be fine. Even though he was a frail looking boy, weighing in at only 2.3kg.; I thought that it was just a matter of time before he blossomed.

One of the first things that disturbed us when he was removed from my womb (by caesarian section) was that he never cried. At home Madhava's hands and legs would constantly move. He would always be fisting, cycling and scissoring. His weight gain per month was minute. He had no facial expressions. Our paediatrician thought that all these symptoms pointed at some type of brain abnormality. So, at 5 months Madhava was admitted to hospital for a whole range of tests. At this time he was also experiencing a high fever.

After a brain ultrasound and EEG; the neurologist decided that the problem wasn't with the head. Then they noted a urine infection. After an ultrasound of the renal tracts and a VCU, the conclusion was that Madhava had posterior urethral valves. Basically, it meant that a valve leading from his bladder out wasn't functioning properly. The bladder was swelling and the urine was being resent back to the kidneys. The left kidney had become damaged and the bladder walls were now muscular.

After these findings, Madhava was in theatre 3 different times. 1st was the cystoscopy. 2nd was the vesicostomy (A hole was made below his navel and his bladder was stitched onto it. Now he passes urine from the hole.) 3rd was the circumcision.

These hospital experiences made us realize that we needed to take a more holistic approach to helping Madhava with his serious health problems. With the help of a naturopath we started to help him strengthen his internal organs. Next, we wanted to help him with his physical development. A Scottish friend of ours who lives in India sent us the website details of Babygym here in South Africa. So, we contacted Liz Victor and our first session was baby massage (Monday-17th September). Madhava was now 8 months old.

At this point I want to share something personal with you. Just so that you can understand why we appreciated Liz soooo much. During our time of struggling with Madhava's health problems, all our close friends seemed to disappear. They couldn't comprehend our stress and anxiety. Like one friend told us: "Well, it's not like Madhava has a life threatening disease or something." So, in this way, we quickly realized how superficial our friends really were. Suddenly, by the grace of God, we were meeting strangers who sympathized and comforted us. When we met Liz she surprised us with her warmth, love, care and concern.

During that same week of meeting Liz and having her counsel, we were fortunate in that we also got to meet Melody De Jager(Friday-21st September). She too extended herself to us and touched our hearts.

A friend from Australia who works with kids with problems, also helped us. He arranged for someone from America to send us some 'zeolite'(a product from cooled volcanic lava). He told us that he had experience with young kids not developing properly because of heavy metals accumulating on the brain. So, this zeolite removes the heavy metals and toxins from the body. With this combination of zeolite(started 21st September) and massage, we noted a sudden improvement in Madhava. The next day (Saturday-22nd September) he smiled for the first time. You cannot begin to imagine the happiness that filled our heart just to see Madhava smile. Always, his eyes would speak volumes but his face would be very vacant. Suddenly to see him squint his eyes and stretch his mouth was simply amazing.

He would hold a smile for a couple of seconds at a time. His grip was also getting stronger. He was able to pull himself up 2 to 3 times using his own strength by gripping onto his dad's fingers. Two days later (Monday-24th September) he was responding more to sounds and he was able to roll over from his stomach onto his back, without any assistance. Overall his body was getting stronger. Madhava would also respond to our laughing. Whenever we laughed, he'd want to join in and would break into a huge grin.

Now he's just turned 9 months and we've had a 2nd session with Liz. Madhava can only hold his head up for short spaces of time. The vesicostomy is still there. We're waiting for him to reach 8 or 9 kgs, then it will be time for surgery again. Now Madhava weighs around 5.9kg. Once, his bladder problem is sorted out, we're meant to follow-up with the neurologist again. There are more scans and tests on the horizon. Of course, every time he gets a vaccine or goes under anaesthetic, it will retard his developmental progress because of the heavy metals involved. So, the road ahead is very long.

I'd like to think of my son as a work in progress. I know that it is a matter of time before he is completely on par with other children his age. I know too that he needs all the help that he can get. And prayer helps too.

Continue

Monday 17th September – Meet Liz Victor from Babygym.

Start giving Madhava Massages everyday. Liz Victor's notes- Started massage to create an awareness, encouraged parents to stimulate mouth with Mam massaging set, introduce a dummy to help increase sucking

Friday 21st September – Meet Melodie de Jager - founder of Babygym. Very positive meeting, lots of positive signs from Madhava's movements etc. More movement in the mouth almost rolling from tummy to back

Friday 21st September. Start Zeolite with Madhava. 3 drops 3 times a day.

Saturday 22nd September: Madhava starts to smile. Was able to hold a smile for a couple of seconds at a time. Until now he has never smiled before.

Saturday 22nd September: Grip gets stronger. Was able to pull himself up 2 to 3 times using his own strength by gripping on to my fingers.

Monday 24th September: Responding more to sounds: Was able to roll over from the stomach to his back, without any assistance. Body getting stronger

Monday 24th September: Responding to my laughing. Whenever I laugh, he wants to join in and breaks in to a huge grin.

Thursday 27th September: Second session with Liz. Fast massage and exercise on ball. Rolling and swinging etc. Started with stimulating massage, encouraged lots of vestibular movement on ball , swinging etc. Pulling up to strengthen core and neck. Tummy and back time. Stimulate the muscles in the mouth

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