



Speaking from Experience

Epilepsy in Childhood (family perspective)

Transcript for chapter 5 of 9: Impact on the family

Leigh and Ann's daughter Natalie is 10 - No, I don't really feel like the family has made a lot of allowances for Natalie, really. The whole situation, we've just adapted to. I think most people do adapt. A lot of people say, 'How do you cope?' or whatever, but people do.

Frank and Denise's son Luc is 6 - It's just been an amazing impact on the family, really. Because you'd always be thinking about what he was doing and where he was. Was he falling over and was he in a dangerous place?

Anne's daughter Jessica is 15 - When Jessica didn't have control of her seizures, it had different affects on different members of the family. Of course, Mick and I were on edge all the time, because we weren't sure when she was going to have a seizure. Her grandmother didn't cope very well at all because she basically just wanted her Jessica back. That made it very difficult, because she wasn't comfortable to babysit and things like that. Ryan, who was four, coped quite well. We gave him little jobs to do when Jessie had seizures. So he felt that he was helping in some way. He felt it, I think, because he wasn't getting a lot of attention some days.

Bev and Tim (11 years, diagnosed at 14 months) - As a family, probably all we do is make sure Tim has a rest, because we can't stand him being so grumpy [laughs].

Frank and Denise - I think Sam is wonderful. He's probably the best brother Luc could ever have. He understands him and there's this enormous amount of warmth and affection there. I respect Sam enormously - he's probably not aware of it - but there's sacrifices he's had to make and he's never even thought about it.

Sandra's son Elliot is 9 - The brothers and sisters do stick up for him. It's ok for them to say things, but when Elliot was having seizures at school, my second son would always carry him into the sick bay.

Frank and Denise - A couple of our brothers and sisters and parents have been really supportive and concerned. When we go around to visit them, we don't feel like they don't want us to be there. They're just so tolerant and just try to make things as pleasant as possible and are very loving towards Luc.