



Speaking from Experience

Epilepsy in Childhood (family perspective)

Transcript for chapter 9 of 9: Closing thoughts

Frank and Denise's son Luc is 6: If your child has been diagnosed with epilepsy, please don't give up, there's an enormous amount of hope there. There's a great deal of medication on the market, and 70% of people with epilepsy can have their seizures fully controlled with either one or a combination of medications. And even in our case, with Luc, we had to face surgery, if you thoroughly find out the facts and if it is suitable for you and your child, I would recommend that you seriously consider it. Because, in our case, it's worked wonderfully.

Anne and daughter Jessica, 15: I guess if you're a parent who's just had a child diagnosed with epilepsy, my advice would be at the moment epilepsy is just sort of taken over your life. You think about it every day, and you probably worry about it every day. But it's really important to try and get that into a small part of your day, and your child's day, because it can take over your life and it's really important for the kids that they get the chance to be normal and live a healthy, active life.

Sandra's son Elliot is 9: I would recommend them that they get in touch with the foundation. Find out all the things that are available to them, and there is a lot available. Find out everything they can about epilepsy, you know, what sort their child's got. There's a library there and there's books you can read. And the more you know about it, it's a really good thing.

Anne and daughter Jessica, 15: I think, if I was going to say to somebody that has just been diagnosed, not to worry and not to get too upset. It's going to get better, hopefully, and it's not going to be there controlling your life forever. You can do things, it's not something that's going to stop you from doing most things.

Leigh and Ann's daughter is 10: There are a lot of things out there that are worse. When something happens to a family, you don't realise until you've got it and then you start taking hold of what's actually going on. And when you think of other people, you think how lucky you are with what we've got.

Bev and Tim (11 years, diagnosed at 14 months): I just wouldn't worry about having epilepsy. I mean, it's no big deal.

Leigh and Ann's daughter is 10: I just think, find out as much as you can. Support the child and make the child feel, you know, worthwhile, what he or she is as well. It's not the end of the world. They're still that same person. Make sure that you explain everything to the child, fully; that they're aware of the situation. They keep as safe as they can and keep as happy and healthy as they can.