



steps

We don't take walking for granted

Courtney
Diagnosed aged 16
months
Treatment to date:
Open Reduction with
Pelvic Osteotomy, Hip
Spica

Courtney's Story

When Courtney was born on 13th March.2006 they did do a hip check on her due to being a forceps delivery which involved moving her hips, that was it. Because she was a very wriggly baby they said they think she was fine but because she was wiggling so much it was hard to check and that was that.

When she started to try to walk Courtney used to walk on her tip toes and with her left leg bent inwards, when we asked the health visitor about it we were told it was our fault for putting her in a walker. We wrote a complaint about this as if walkers were so bad for children then surely shops would not sell them. We then asked another health visitor about it only days apart and she told us its normal and she's just a lazy late walker. I'm sure if my partner or I were aware of DDH we would have argued till we were blue in the face about getting her properly examined.

When Courtney did finally start to walk she still used to walk with her left leg bent in and walked with a very slight limp, we again asked the health visitor if something was wrong and were told that she would grow out of it when she got the grasp of walking properly.

That was only a few months ago, after that Courtney's limp got worse and worse and her leg seemed to give way on her, she was forever falling over. When we asked **AGAIN** the health visitor told us it was nothing to worry about; she's just a clumsy child.

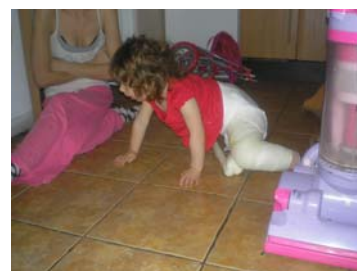
After another week or so she started to complain that her leg hurt, this was the final straw and we took her to our GP for second advice. We were told by her that there was nothing wrong with Courtney and that she was not limping! That did it for my

partner and after raised voices and an argument our GP finally said that she would refer Courtney to Warrington Hospital.

There the orthopaedic noticed straight away something was wrong as her left leg was a lot shorter than her right leg. He x-rayed her and we were referred to Alder Hey Hospital immediately. We were told there that Courtney had DDH and that her ball joint had never been in her hip socket. The cause would have been the forceps delivery and we were told that when she was born she should have had an ultrasound on her hips to rule DDH out.

We all feel very let down by the medical service and since she has been diagnosed it has only got worse with nurses not knowing her information and her ward nurses not giving her painkillers when they were supposed and all round being very rude.

I have to say along this very bumpy journey the only person who I can say was amazing was her surgeon.



www.steps-charity.org.uk

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