



steps

We don't take walking for granted

Elisha

Diagnosed aged 18 Months

Treatment to date: Open

Reduction and Hip Spica 10

Weeks

Elisha's Story

Nikki's baby was discovered to be breech when she was 8 months pregnant. Elisha was born at Colchester general hospital by caesarean section on 7th August 2006. Even though Elisha was breech Nikki wasn't told anything about DDH, and the fact that breech babies are more prone to this.

At the usual health visitor checks, again nothing was mentioned about hips, although Elisha's hips were checked and were described as normal. The 6-9-month checks also found no problems at all.

Elisha didn't start to walk till 16 months old. She never really seemed comfortable walking and she always walked with a waddle. Nikki thought she must just be slow and that was it. Until one day when Elisha was 17 months old, she tried to get up from sitting on the floor. She seemed stuck, and



Elisha in her first spica cast June 2008

started moaning. Nikki took her to the doctor, but the doctor didn't know what was wrong. Her left leg looked wrong somehow, her knee kept going in and she looked like she was limping more than before. But Elisha was reluctant for the doctor to check her hip at that time, so Nikki was advised to leave it a week and go back to see the doctor. So a week passed and even though Elisha seemed fine at the next GP appointment, Nikki's doctor referred them to hospital.

Finally, Elisha had an x ray, and it was discovered that she had a dislocated hip and she would require an operation.

Nikki feels angry that she didn't have any information either pre or post-natal about DDH, from anyone in the health profession – especially as she had a breech birth. Nikki says "if I had some warning [..of the possibility of DDH...] I would of probably picked it up sooner."

The Consultant doing the operation has told Nikki that Elisha should of had a scan, because she was breech. Nikki wants to know "why wasn't it even offered to me?".



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