

My baby wouldn't feed!

My son was born at 38 weeks naturally and the labour was fairly straight forward, however, Max had different ideas when it came to feeding! He struggled to latch on properly from day one and I battled with a mixture of breast feeding, expressing and bottle for 4 weeks before I took the difficult decision to exclusively bottle feed. Everything was fine until Christmas when Max was poorly with a sickness bug at 8 weeks old. Following the bug his feeding pattern changed and he no longer drank 5oz milk with ease, instead, he would struggle to drink 1oz before pushing the bottle across the room crying.

I didn't know what was wrong and this continued for several months and I became increasingly worried and stressed that he wasn't getting enough milk. He seemed in pain most of the time when feeding, was always windy and sometimes full of mucus. My friends helped by feeding and winding him when they came round to see if it was just the way I fed him. I spoke to several health visitors who told me it was just wind and to use infacol or gripe water to help, which I did to no avail.

Sometimes Max would only consume about 4oz of milk all day, but then would drink 5oz at night with ease. I stopped going out as Max would get so distressed when feeding that I dreaded doing it in public.

After lots of crying, phone calls to my husband to come home from work I couldn't cope any longer and decided to go and visit my GP.

They didn't seem worried as Max (when not feeding) was happy and content, even though I knew something was wrong. I asked my GP to refer us to a paediatrician as we had private health care which they thought was a waste of time, but when I refused to leave their office without a referral letter, they agreed!

A few days later my husband and I took Max to see the paediatrician in Windsor and within one meeting he established that Max had a cows milk allergy brought on from the tummy bug he had at Christmas. He asked us to try a hypoallergenic milk called Nutramigen. I was so relieved that someone was listening to us and was going to help us!

We changed the milk over a course of a few days, however spotted blood in his stools and stopped immediately. We then had to change milk again to Neocate which Max is still on today and loves it. He loves his milk and drinks with ease and is a happy little boy again.

If anyone has a similar experience or is concerned about their baby's feeding, I would urge you to seek help through GP or health visitor. Don't think you have to struggle on your own and there is also some useful information on the internet.