

06:00PM... dinner time... a little boy's life changed forever... **This is Blake's story.**

At home, sitting on the stool in front of the computer, Blake was ignoring his mum's request to get ready for dinner. As Ashlee kept asking him to stop, Blake kept ignoring her.



At that moment, Ashlee realised her son was not okay. Blake was just six years old and having a seizure that would last around three minutes. A seizure that would change his family's life forever.

While Ashlee's husband Tim called for an ambulance, she noted that Blake's seizure transformed from an absence seizure into a tonic-clonic seizure. Blake experienced another seizure in the ambulance and another four seizures while in hospital that night.

The seizures didn't stop even when he was transferred to another hospital. Blake went into status for 10 weeks. **He was experiencing seizure after seizure every single day. Over the course of a 12-hour period, Blake had 23 seizures.**

With his seizures unable to be controlled with medication, Blake was admitted into ICU undergoing a series of CT scans, MRIs and lumbar punctures to identify what was going on. The doctors were baffled, his parents were scared.

Just as the doctors were preparing to place Blake in an induced coma to give his brain a rest, Ashlee put her son on the phone to his twin brother. Blake was no longer able to talk, so his twin brother talked, sang and read. Finally, Blake stopped having seizures for about an hour. He was given medication, and with his brain exhibiting fewer seizures, Blake slept for the next 24 hours!

Finally, Ashlee and Tim were told that most likely their son has febrile infection refractory syndrome (FIRES), a condition that affects a previously healthy child after a short fever, such as a cold or flu. **A once healthy and happy child, Blake had to relearn how to use a knife and fork, go to the bathroom, sit, brush teeth, walk, talk...** This was the beginning of Blake's and Ashlee's journey with epilepsy.

While Blake was in hospital, we reached out to Ashlee to let her know of the support we could provide her and Tim. Since then, we've been by their side. Our Epilepsy Support team have helped them understand Blake's condition, created an Epilepsy Management Plan and helped secure a monitor to record Blake's brain activity while asleep at home. We also helped Ashlee write a letter explaining her son's condition to family, friends and school, and provided Blake's school with resources and information so they're equipped to care for him when he has a seizure. Most importantly, we've helped Ashlee understand that her son is a normal happy 9-year-old boy who happens to have epilepsy.

Donate today so families like Ashlee's can continue to receive life-changing support, information and care. Visit www.epilepsyfoundation.org.au/1every33