

Hi There

My name is \*\*\*\*\* and my son \*\*\* is a type one diabetic. He was diagnosed in 2007 at the age of 4. The first 12 months we used needles for \*\*\* to get his insulin. This was a huge learning experience for our family and hard to explain to a 4 year old. His whole eating patterns had to change, he would need 4 injections every day, eat regular meals at regular times each and every day. One year later we were lucky enough to have the insulin pump offered to us. Initially we were a bit reserved because it was something else new to learn. Our main aim from the pump was to give \*\*\* a chance for a better and longer life. The insulin pump mimicks the pancreas and can give tiny doses of insulin 24 hours a day. On needles he would get huge doses at one time and this caused inconsistency with his blood sugars. We also knew this would be detrimental for his body long term.

\*\*\* has been on an insulin pump for 5 years and it is the most amazing piece of technology for a type one diabetic. His HbA1C (this is the average blood sugar level over 3 months) is well within range. It also gives him more flexibility with eating so if he does not want to eat a meal he does not have to. The pump divides his insulin into back ground insulin which pumps 24 hours a day and helps his body function like a non diabetic. The second half of the insulin is based on food intake and is broken down into carbohydrate ratios. The pump is smart enough to recognize 2 hour blocks and knows how much insulin he needs for that particular time of the day and also to know how much insulin he needs based on the carbohydrate intake. The flexibility with this is truly a blessing, because as you know sometimes we feel like eating more and then sometimes we feel like eating less.

**The insulin pump has been a fantastic tool in helping our son try and be a normal kid. Yes, diabetes is a life threatening disease but with the help of the insulin pump diabetes is manageable and hopefully giving our son a better chance at a normal healthy life.**