

[PKIDs Immunization Videos - Hib Disease](#)

(Note: Except when noted, the speaker is shown on the screen. There is music playing softly in the background through most of the video.)

Mom: A few years ago, our son Matthew — he was three years old at the time — complained that he had a pain in his neck.

(Image of Matthew)

We thought maybe he was developing strep.

(Video clip of parent feeling boy's forehead)

He had a really high fever and he was sort of like hunched over, and at that point we took him just to the local hospital.

Dad: The pediatric doctor that they were able to get was an older doctor who had been around, and he asked us a really important question...

Mom: Was your son vaccinated? And at the time, he wasn't.

Dad: He thought he knew what it was. He said he wasn't positive, but he would know within minutes. And he ordered some x-rays.

Mom: The x-rays confirmed that he did have Hib disease.

Doctor: Hib disease is infection caused by the bacteria *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. Before the vaccine, about 20,000 children got serious Hib disease and about 1,000 died of it.

Dad: Matthew's windpipe was closing down quickly.

Mom: He said that your son is going to die within minutes.

Dad: And he said 'Quite honestly, we're not in a situation —in this particular hospital— that we're prepared to help him.'

Doctor: Since the introduction of Hib vaccine, there's been a decline of more than 99 percent. Most physicians nowadays have not even seen this disease.

Mom: I'm thinking I'm going in there for strep. I'm not thinking I'm going in there for Hib disease and also not realizing that I could have prevented this as a mother if I had just got his shots.

Dad: They had prepared two separate rooms with crash carts, and he was telling the nurses and the staff there that we need to be prepared. This child, you know, more than likely, is going to die.

(Image of Matthew on hospital bed)

Mom: He was put into a slight coma, and it was touch and go for a few days.

Dad: Each day, they would bring teams of physicians through to show them what kids were contracting without having vaccinations.

(Image of Matthew on hospital bed)

Mom: He spent six days in the hospital and then when we got him home from the hospital, we definitely got him fully vaccinated.

(Video clip of boy in field with wildflowers)

Dad: We had made a conscious decision not to vaccinate based on some information that we had at the time thinking that we were doing, you know, our best for Matthew.

Mom: We made the wrong decision, and I know we're not the only parents out there that made this decision.

Doctor: Hib disease can be simply prevented...

(Image of Matthew)

Doctor:...by a vaccine series that's safe and effective.

Dad: We didn't realize these diseases are still out there.

Mom: And we just really don't want anybody else to go through what we went through.

Dad: We're very thankful to still have our son.

Voiceover: Check with your provider to see if immunization is right for your family.

(Image: PKIDs.ORG Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases)