

18-24 MONTHS (2 YEARS!)

Friday 1st February – 1 and a half today.

This month has been quite a trial so far as you seem to be having the terrible two's already!. Friday 22nd February was a particularly bad morning and when Granny & Granddad Mott came round in the afternoon I was feeling very stressed and it helped having them there to unload on. Things off my chest and advice given & taken – you're in for it now. Any more temper tantrums and I am to ignore you, you are to say 'ta' when given something.

Words so far recognisable are: Daddy (!!!), Mum, Baby, Shoes and 1, 2 & 3.

Thursday 6th March – New word today is 'Duice' (Juice!).

Having a bit of an up and down time sussing out naps etc as sometimes you don't have them and then when it comes to bed-time you go up and as soon as we go to leave you cry so think you are over-tired.

Have reverted back the last two days to letting you have a nap but only for an hour and then waking you up – first day ok so we will see tonight.

Saturday 8th March – Granny & Granddad Mott came over late morning to see us and you had a right hab-a-dab again. Weird because when you saw Granny Mott at swimming yesterday you gave her a kiss before we went in, played with her while we were in the pool and gave her a kiss when we left

Sunday 9th March – You were sick everywhere all day!!!!!! (and Daddy was a star)

Monday 10th March – You woke up at 7.45am crying so went and got you and calmed you down. Put you in bed with me for a cuddle and normally you would be like 'no – get off, time to get up' but you snuggled, fell asleep and then turned over and had more sleep for about another hour. When we finally got up you are very clingy, got a bit of a temperature and very lethargic. Managed most of your breakfast and kept it down.

Had some lunch and then went back to sleep straight after. Woke you up after an hour and a half and rewarded 30 minutes later with a really stinky diarrhoea nappy! – Thanks. You then proceeded to have diarrhoea for the rest of the day and kept crying and screaming all day and the next driving me mad.

Had our friends little girl on the Thursday and thought you had woken up better. Took you both to family group and had to have a little 'time-out' myself as got upset. You then decided you wanted to go to sleep on the floor so I cuddled you and you fell asleep on me.

Had to borrow a friend's push-chair to put you in where you slept for the rest of the session. Got home and you had a little to eat but when Daddy came in as he had a half day you went upstairs with him and back to sleep.



Took my friend's little girl to another of her friends for the rest of the afternoon and then we both took you to the Doctors. Couldn't find anything specific, just a virus but you were bordering on dehydrated and to keep an eye on you. It didn't improve on the Friday and we were getting concerned it would be a trip up to the Hospital for a drip but left it more day and you perked up considerably on the Saturday and started to eat and drink again –

PHEWWWWW!!!!!!

More new words this month – Purple, Car & Crispies (for Rice Crispies)

So you can now say Daddy, Baby, Mum, Juice, Purple, Car, Crispies, Ta and Please and with a little help can count up to six.

Poor luv, just get over D&V and you catch a cold. Talking to other Mums at Family group and they say the say that it seems to be one thing after another. Decided not to take you swimming this week as need you to be well on the 18th for your Rubella injection.

Can say 'Good Girl' too now.

Tuesday 1st April - 20 months now. Went the whole of next week bar one day with no afternoon nap, tried again the next week but you crashed on the Tuesday on the bean-bag in front of the television at 2.45pm. You woke up suddenly and thought you were in bed so practically nose-dived the floor so picked you up and snuggled you for 45 minutes which was nice and woke you up in time for tea by putting on Peppa Pig.

Words to date are Mummy, Daddy, Baby, Crispies, Car, Ta, Please, Purple, Rory (the racing car!), 2 & 3, Juice & See you soon.

Going for your Rubella injection on Friday!!

Friday 20th April – Rubella injection this morning and you were as good as gold!!!.

Went to get you changed later for bed and you had spots on your tummy.

Saturday 21st April – Quite a lot of spots on your belly this morning but think that's a reaction to your injection.

Quite whingey today. Kirsty came over and you had your first haircut.

Sunday 22nd April – Think you may have had tummy ache as you had a wicked poo this morning which came out of the nappy – NICE!

Granny & Granddad Mott came over in the afternoon and mentioned to Granny about your spots. Had a look at them and both think they are Rubella (German Measles) so unfortunately no busy beez or family group or JJ's next week – DOH!

Basically you have been a nightmare for the last two weeks with your measles, teething and dodgy tummy all at once.

Sunday 27th April – Worst day so far out of the last two weeks in as much as I had to go upstairs you were so bad and leave Daddy to sort you out. Screaming, crying & not eating just about nearly tipped me over the edge! – oh the joys of terrible 2's!!!

Monday 28th April – Went to Granny Attrills for the day as it is her 93rd birthday today and think we have finally turned the corner today as you were a very good girl.

Thursday 1st May – 21 months today

Friday 2nd May – Finally got back into swimming after about 3-4 weeks away. Granny Mott bought you a flotation vest which will take a bit of getting used to but you did actually swim unaided with it on for about 10 kicks!!.

Friday 9th May – Couldn't take you swimming again today as you developed a really horrible mucus cough yesterday, checked with Granny Mott and she advised against it. Unfortunately she can't come next week.

Kind of getting used to the up and down Verity at the moment, we get a couple of good days maybe even a week and then you catch something else and are miserable, whiny and cry a lot.

I started a 'PPP' (Positive Parenting Programme) on 7th May which is one morning a week for the next 6/7 weeks and am finding it actually quite good. Just being with other Mums talking about similar situations finding out that certain reactions and behaviour are normal is very reassuring.

Friday 30th May – Went away for the first time in our new Motor-home to the New Forest for the Basingstoke Amateur Radio Direction Finding contest and for our first break (holiday) since before you were born.

We followed Daddy down with the car with Sarah and Phil in convoy and you fell asleep on the way down as we left shortly after you had had your dinner anyway.

Was worried how you would re-act but when we got there and met up with Granny & Granddad Mott but we gave you your activity walker and you were off and gone with it running between Caravans, tents etc.

Put you down on our bed to go to sleep then transferred you later to the dinning table bed as you are too little yet to go in the over-cab bed.

You had one bad night/morning where you woke us at 5.10am as the rain on the roof had woke you up but managed to get you back to sleep again. All in all you were brilliant and actually slept past 7/7.30am each morning which was lovely.

Sunday 1st June - in the New Forest and you turned 22 months today!!

Taking into consideration that we put you in a new Fleece sleep-suit to sleep in the Motor-home and you woke up later we thought you might be waking up earlier at home because you are cold so on Monday night we put you in one at home but you still ended up coming into me at 6.30am blowing that theory completely out of the water!!



Sunday 8th June – Sarah and I took you down to Boscome to the beech as Daddy had his first night-shift last night so decided to leave him to it. You fell asleep on the way down which wasn't unexpected seeing as you are getting up at 6.15am and were good while we were on the beach. It was scorching hot but you had T-Shirt and factor 50 on so not too bad but turned into a monster again when we went to come home.

Lost my rag in the car-park with you due to my difficulty knowing what you want but Sarah stepped in and helped. Wasn't helped by the fact that the engine management light had come on on Daddy's car we were using so was a bit het up and panicky.

Sods law it went out the second time we started the car after ringing Daddy to ask his advice hoping we weren't waking him up.

Got home and you then somehow managed to rip your bit toe-nail on the left foot which upset you a lot as it appeared you didn't like the sight of blood but after 3 plasters and one bath later, Sarah and I managed to trim it a bit once you had your bottle and fell asleep on me.

Thursday 11th June – Just wanted to say that since Daddy started his week of nights of Saturday you have slept past 7.30, 8 & even 9am this week which is un-heard of. Not sure if it is coincidence or that when he is on days and gets up at 6am that is what wakes

you up or if it has something to do with the amount of food you have been packing away this week which signifies a growth spurt.

I also wanted to say on a positive note that you were a very good, nice, cheeky, lovely little girl today as Mummy had a migraine this morning and spent most of the morning dozing on the sofa. You were quite content to watch 'your' television programmes which is a rare treat in the mornings for you, played quietly and didn't stray from the front room while I was recuperating – THANK YOU.

Saturday 21st June – On a different note you have been a complete NIGHTMARE today. Started off with you getting up at 6.43am (as normal) but considering Daddy hadn't got in until 2.20am it meant that Mummy ended up getting up at 7.20am so that I could get you dressed and leave him in peace for a bit seeing as he was going to do an MOT at 9am with a friend anyway.



Decided to go shopping after lunch and basically from the moment I turned right at the bottom of our road you did nothing but cry, moan, smack and kick (when you were in the trolley). We have no idea why you don't like going right at that junction and coincidentally why you have a major problem going into shops as I get the same reaction. Shopping basically is a no-no!. I spoke to the instructors on my PPP course who suggested it might be too many people for the shop scenario – lets just hope you can either grow out of it or tell me sooner rather than later.

Let's hope sooner eh? – This might not be a problem as words are coming all the time now and too many too mention.

All I can say is that I am looking forward to going away on Thursday with Sarah &

Phil to Glastonbury Festival for the break and so that Daddy can have some quality time with you. He will also have Richard for the weekend so might need some valium by the time I get back – ha ha.

Monday 24th June – no improvement from Saturday. Basically all bar 45 minutes (when you were asleep) you spent the best part of 2 and a half hours crying and screaming at me. I did see red and ended up screaming at you and had to put you on the floor and walk away. NOTE TO ALL – Stressed out Baby and Mummy with PMT = Stressed out Mummy & Baby!!!. Daddy heard you on the phone and I even phoned Granny Oxlade for advice. She came over after picking up Amelia from school and dropping her home

to try and save my sanity. As is the usual scenario you were absolutely fine all the time she was here.

Tuesday 25th June – did start off better today as didn't come in until 7.07am but by 1.30pm you were flagging but it was too late for a nap. Granny & Granddad Mott came over to visit. Think your cold is coming out as hot to the touch (no temperature though) and sneezing and blowing snot bubbles out of your nose – lovely.

Tried to cut your toe-nails after they had gone and you threw a mental and fought with me crying and screaming all the time. I DID succeed but only after losing my temper and shouting back of course followed by the guilty conscience after.

Bathed and in bed by 7pm tonight with Calpol etc for good measure.

WHY IS IT WHEN YOU PLAN SOMETHING FOR MONTHS TO GO AWAY AND GET QUALITY 'YOU' TIME THE 'KIDS' PICK THAT PARTICULAR TIME TO GET SICK MAKING YOU FEEL EVEN MORE GUILTY?!!!

Thursday 27th June – Went away today with friends to Glastonbury Festival and won't be back until Sunday!!!. Daddy took you off to family group and we departed at the same time. The reports while I was away were that it went well and you didn't have any temper tantrums for him – typical!!!

Tuesday 1st July – 23 months today. Gave you your bottle at the normal time of 7pm as you don't have a nap in the day anymore and you fell asleep with one arm over your head and the other holding onto the bottle which was still in your mouth – you haven't done that since you were a little baby but you did look dead cute. Might have something to do with the fact that you have gone back to getting up at 6.30am again!!!.

Saturday 5th July – The penny has just dropped that the reason you have been so hyper-active and miserable is a side effect of your asthma medication so we took the decision of knocking it on the head. 2/3 days later and situation returned to normal.

Monday 14th July – had a good day up until about 3.30pm. Done lots of cleaning & washing. Went for a nice long walk in the afternoon to drop off your forms for Nursery & Infant school then on to look around where Mummy & Daddy used to live before getting the lottery and some milk at Morrison's before returning home.

Had briefly been upstairs doing some polishing and you were happy having some VJ TV time. Came down and you came over to me asking for a cuddle and were red-hot. Took your temperature and it was 37.8 so gave you some Calpol. Within 10 minutes of that you had fallen asleep on the sofa.

Gave Granny Oxlade a call to come over to help check on you. You stayed asleep for over an hour and were very clingy for a bit longer before Lazy town and Grapes perked you up. Within another 20 minutes you were chasing Sarah and I round the tent outside feeling much better.

Sunday 13th July – Went to Auntie Veronicas and Uncle Micks for the yearly family BBQ. Took your bus and box of cars/ books with us along with everything else you need

i.e. nappies, food etc. Sat at the table to have your Dinner at normal time no problem and was good as gold.

You spent the majority of the time playing with Courtney & Josie when they arrived.



I ended up with some sort of tummy bug and ended up hogging the downstairs toilet for over an hour with the sweats and nausea too. You came in with me initially but when I realised I was in for the long haul put you out. Everyone was great though (especially Daddy) and tried to keep you distracted/amused while I recovered on the sofa after.

On the way home we stopped at one of the launch sites for Cameron Balloons and watched Daddy help his team get their balloon up and saw two others go too. We were privileged as we could park quite close and you had great fun running around the car, playing at driving and then seeing them go up.

Didn't leave the site until gone 7pm which is when you normally go to bed and you were starting to get grumpy but fell asleep in your chair very shortly after we left. Got home and you woke up sort-of when Daddy took you out of the car. Took you upstairs and changed you on your bed and put you straight down (no bottle). You slept through the whole night!.



Tuesday 15th July – woke up

at 6.03am and came into us. Got out of bed, picked you up to put you back to bed and you were red-hot again. Found 'blankey' and settled you back down and you didn't come back in again then until 7.13am. When you got into bed you were still red-hot so stripped off your pyjamas. Nappy wasn't particularly wet either.

Came down-stairs at normal time and took your temperature again and it was back at 37.6!. Didn't want any breakfast but you are quite perky in yourself playing and chatting so left you in just a nappy and vest.

Wednesday 16th July – practically back to normal this morning thank goodness.

Thursday 17th July – came in at 6.30am in a bad mood which continued through most of the rest of the day. Went to family group and you were horrible, hitting other children with toys if they wanted to play with you, smacking and using your head as a battering ram. Had to put you on time-out twice.

I know its normal behaviour but it's so embarrassing. You carried it on when we got home and even had a nap after lunch where you had worn yourself out with crying etc. Didn't wake up in much of a better mood but improved shortly after tea. Typically just in time for Daddy to come home and take over – hmmm...

Saturday 19th July – your due date 2 years ago. You had a grumpy day again today (good day yesterday) and went down for an hours nap again after lunch. It didn't improve much after your nap though and even when Granny & Granddad Mott came over. Improved slightly once I let you watch Peppa Pig at 3.30pm before your tea and then Daddy and I walked you up the Park for an hour which you loved.

Sunday 20th July – Based on the fact that you went without a bottle last Sunday night and that you have barely been taking two and a half ounces all week have made the decision with Daddy to drop your last bottle completely (BOO HOO!!).

Monday 21st July – You have had a cough now for a number of weeks and on my last visit to the Doctors got them to check you over but said your chest was clear. When Daddy phoned checked with him and decided to get you an appointment to check again. Spoke to the Surgery early afternoon and have appointment tomorrow morning. Spoke to Granny Mott later and told her all about it and on discussion asked if she could join us (moral support and all that...).

Tuesday 22nd July – Trip to Doctors successful (sort-of). Lucky for us that the Doctor on call doing the walk-in Clinic was one Granny Mott knew and liked and on checking you out confirmed that yes you do now have crackles on your chest indicating an infection so prescribed you some antibiotics.

Thursday 23rd July – Went to last family group before the summer break and we had party food and cake to celebrate your birthday due VERY soon. They sang you Happy Birthday and you actually behaved yourself pretty well today and stayed pretty much up until the end.

Friday 24th July – Aside from the fact that getting you to take your medicine is becoming hard your cough is actually getting worse and you are now barking and

choking when trying to eat. Phoned NHS direct for advice and then the on-call Doctor at our Surgery. Very possible you have croup but 'not much they can do unless it is severe as it is a viral infection'.

Granny & Granddad Mott popped in around tea-time to say they had 'both' been swimming and it was VERY busy so just as well we didn't go. You were nearly at the end of your tea and had been very happy but coughing a lot when you suddenly got upset and started to cry. Think it is because your throat is now very sore. I then got upset as know what it's like and Granny was trying to calm me down as well as you – I don't know, what a pair!!!.

Gave you some Calpol and shortly after it kicked in and you had calmed down you then managed to hurt your tummy and we were back to square one!.

Today is the 6th night with no bottle.
Continued the rest of the month with no bottle so is now dropped totally – BOO HOO!

Have decided that you really don't like going shopping of any description so for now think I will try and do this on my own when I can.



My birthday picture by Granddad.