

Not Breathing Easy

“Disarticulated Homework” in Asthma Management

Give her two pumps of this, Tasha, twice a day

I will



*They sent my child home with one of them asthmas... the breathin' machine.**

Time for your albuterol baby



Her breathing treatment is always at 5:30 in the morning, on clockwork...

You wheezing baby. You need a treatment.

Mama you listen like a mouse



I don't want nothin' to happen to my child, so I listen closely to my baby.

Mama can we go to the zoo?

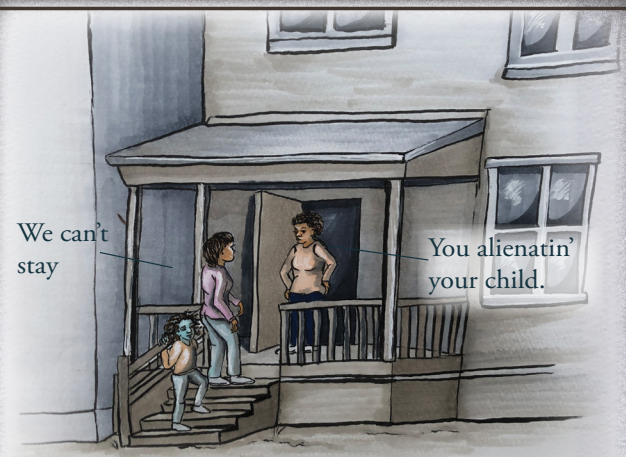
No baby, you're gonna be wheezin' by the time we leave. Maybe the movies.



Maybe you can't go different places that other people... I tell her like this, "You'd rather live than not live."

We can't stay

You alienatin' your child.



Well, I have to alienate my child for her to breathe... if you're smokin' and your clothes is full of smoke.

Tasha's Story

Tasha's infant daughter Kayleigh was diagnosed with asthma at the E.R., and Tasha was sent home with a nebuliser “breathing machine” and albuterol. Tasha has continued administering albuterol to Kayleigh ever since, including every morning before Kayleigh gets up for school.

When she got older Kayleigh was also prescribed a controller medication, Flovent. Tasha gives Kayleigh the Flovent once a day, in the evening, which is half the minimum dose recommended by asthma guidelines.

It seems to Tasha that the Flovent doesn't work as well as the albuterol, which quickly and visibly reduces symptoms. When Tasha asks the paediatrician about why the Flovent isn't not working, he suggests increasing the dose, but he seems unaware that Kayleigh is not currently taking the Flovent as per clinical guidelines.

Instead, Tasha constructs her own protocol for Kayleigh's asthma care, involving environmental management, air regulation, close monitoring, and restricting activities.

This Flovent medicine don't seem to be working. Maybe she needs a better thing?

We could try strengthening the dose?



I just don't understand... the Flovent don't work accurate as the albuterol.

See you in six months.

Bye.



Why it take so long? Anything can happen in that six-month stretch.



That's Kayleigh's window!

Mama, that's all I got...



Our new house

You'll never know what's hidin' in a old house... Like lead.

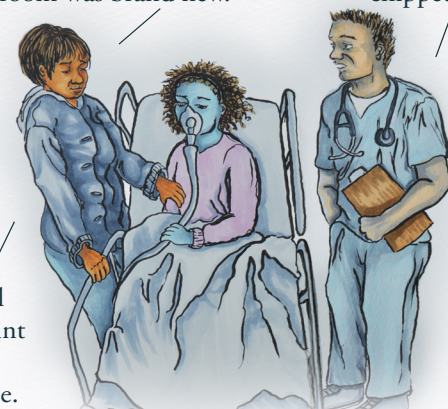
Arrgghhh!

Call 911!



She had been fine. Everything in that room was brand new.

Could be some chipped paint?



We'll repaint the house.

Somethin' triggered her in that house.



We'll make sure everything is right. It's not about us. It's about her. So we're gonna make sure, and we'll do it.

*Italics designate direct quotes