



A hidden danger



I came so close to losing my newborn...

By Jaime Goddard, 34, from Milton Keynes



Feeling lucky
I'm so grateful
Teddy is still with
us today

Arriving home with our son in June 2010, I couldn't stop smiling. 'Here's your little brother Teddy,' my hubby Rob, 37, announced as Louie, then 6, and Alfie, 5, hurtled towards us.

The rest of the day was a blur as family and friends popped by. But when the midwife visited the next day to help me with breastfeeding, Teddy didn't really take to it.

'It'll get easier,' she said.

Except as the day went on, I noticed Teddy was whimpering in his sleep.

'Something doesn't feel right,' I fretted.

'He's fine,' Rob said.

But then...

'Teddy's limp,'

I panicked, when I went to feed him at 5pm.

So we raced a lifeless

Teddy to A&E

where docs

grabbed him from me.

But,

thankfully,

after an

initial rush,

the sense of

urgency seemed to lessen.

'He's just given you a fright,' a doc said. 'We'll observe him overnight, though, to be sure.'

Then, just as Rob and I sighed with relief, suddenly Teddy started screaming blue murder and arching his back.

'What's that rash?' demanded Rob, as Teddy's face turned red and blotchy.

Doctors rushed him to the Neonatal Ward, and led us, shaking with fear,

to a waiting-room.

'We suspect Teddy might have meningitis,' a doctor explained.

'Luckily you've caught it early, so we can give him antibiotics.'

What if he died?

After tests, docs confirmed Group B Strep meningitis.

It turns out around a quarter of women of childbearing age carry the infection in their vagina. The bacteria can be passed to a baby during labour.

Teddy had contracted it from my birth canal.

Doctors explained Teddy could develop cerebral palsy, go deaf, blind, or even lose a limb.

'He'll have some kind of brain-damage,' they said. 'We

just don't know how bad it'll be.'

But, slowly, he started getting stronger and, seven days later, was moved out of the incubator.

One week later, on 15 July 2010, Teddy was allowed home.

Tests showed there was some fluid on his brain, but it's levelling out.

Every time Teddy makes me giggle by saying, 'I wuv you,' to our dog Ralph, I remember how lucky we are!

That's why I think all pregnant women should be tested for Group B Strep.

● For info, visit the Group B Strep Support website at www.gbss.org.uk



Louie, Teddy and Alfie

Teddy started screaming blue murder and arching his back

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eight! +++ Wet spray from sneezing can radiate 5ft! +++



COMING UP...

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