

Supplement 2: Relevant quotes

- Q1. *"Every day and night we are with the kids. So you know how your child behaves normally. And everything that deviates from that, is an indication [of disease] for me."* (Mother, patient 1 year (y))
- Q2. *"You look and then you think: yeah, it's just not my child who I'm seeing now."* (Mother, patient 4 y)
- Q3. *"Father: Just like your car. Yeah, you are driving with it every day, and at the moment that you notice something responds differently than normal, you think: hey, there is something wrong with my car! That's the same with our kid. [...] If I drive in my car every day... You just know: at the moment that you hear something, you know; hey, that is different than what I am used to.
Researcher: yes. And sometimes you still don't know exactly what it is...
Father: ... but you know that there is something wrong."* (patient 8 months (mo))
- Q4. *"He [patient's brother] is always calm and you would see that he becomes more quiet because he is drowsy and passive [...] He becomes quiet with fever, unlike him [patient]. He [brother] would be quiet and sit in a corner and he [patient] would be crying very loudly, like: hey, I'm not feeling well!"* (Father, patient 1 y)
- Q5. *Father: Yeah, we just notice it as a parent! I don't know. He's just really a different child [if he's ill]. Maybe it's based on the parent's instinct.
Mother: [...] What they normally find interesting, is suddenly not interesting anymore! Then you instantly notice that there is something wrong.* (patient 3 y)
- Q6. *Father: And your intuition [to mother] is even stronger than mine. [...] I think that's the widely known mother's instinct. [...] I really keep an eye on him, but what you have... That is just an extra sensor which is turned on!* (patient 6 mo)
- Q7. *"Mother: He [father] does not feel that. But I do. [...] I think it is just the mother's instinct, that you've carried him for 9 months. Yeah...
Researcher: That you know him through and through?
Mother: Yes."* (patient 8 mo)
- Q8. *"She is a very cheerful type, normally. And then she suddenly becomes passive."* (Father, patient 9 mo)
- Q9. *"It's mostly that she sleeps a lot, is tired quickly, and just wants to lay down and doesn't want to do anything."* (Mother, patient 1 y)
- Q10. *"The skin, being pale, having blue circles under the eyes."* (Mother, patient 5 y)
- Q11. *"Mother: Her neck is warm.
Father: And her eyes look different.
Mother: yeah, a drowsy look in her eyes."* (patient 9 mo)
- Q12. *"Then he would be very weak, he couldn't be woken up easily, maybe cry a lot. Continuously falling asleep, just not being alert, not reacting to sounds or so."* (Mother, patient 3 mo)
- Q13. *"[Regarding last admission:] Really, she could only sleep, she couldn't do anything, because she had no energy, and she didn't do anything. But most of all: not responding."* (Mother, patient 1 y)

- Q14. A mother of a child with no significant medical history stated: *"Actually she always stays a bit active. If she would get passive, I would worry. I have only experienced that once, maybe."* (Mother, patient 4 y)
- Q15. A mother of a child with an extensive medical history stated: *"Then he gets lethargic or he starts being delirious, he sees things that are not there. But then he really has a high fever. [...] Look, if he has a fever and he is totally 'out', and he is barely moving, being weak... Yeah, then I am really worried."* (Mother, patient 5 y)
- Q16. *"If he's like this [you hear the child yelling]: very active, he eats well, he drinks well, he pees well, and he does everything that he would do normally... Then I'm not worried."* (Mother, patient 8 mo)
- Q17. *"If he's happy, he is sleeping peacefully, if he is calm when awake, just playing on his own, then we would get the feeling like: everything is fine. And if he finishes his bottles."* (Father, patient 2 mo)
- Q18. *"It's everything combined, the whole picture. So: the fever, alertness, whether he has pain somewhere, [...] how long the illness takes, and also how it went over the course of the day."* (Mother, patient 8 mo)
- Q19. *"Only if it [fever] is very high, and I see that the kid is not well, then I instantly want to call the GP or out-of-hours services. But if he is playing a lot, eating, drinking, with the fever, then it's no problem if it's 40 degrees. Then I just wait 3 days. [...] I know it when my child is sick or not: I see that he doesn't play, eat, drink or pee anymore, has difficulties with peeing, or has red dots. Or if he is restless, then I know that something is wrong with him."* (Mother, patient 9 mo)
- Q20. *"If [name older brother] has a fever, you think: well, it's only the flu. And he is not sick very often. [...] But look, with [name patient], because of his condition... With him that's the moment to go to the hospital. To [name older brother] I would say: just stay at home, I will put a blanket on you, just wait 'till it's over."* (Mother, patient 5 y)
- Q21. *"Eh, he has never really had that. But I can imagine: high chest breathing, located here [points high on the chest]."* (Mother, patient 5 y)
- Q22. *"When she has a cold, we notice she's breathing less well. [...] But furthermore I have no clue."* (Father, 8 mo)
- Q23. *"If he is short of breath, then he's only coughing. He becomes red and sweaty. And he breathes very quickly. [...] Sometimes his lungs are also wheezing. A wheezing sound is coming out of them."* (Mother, patient 4 y)
- Q24. *"The indrawings. And then mainly here [points at neck] and also in his belly, then it's all indrawing. But also the way of breathing. Now he's breathing calmly, but if he's s short of breath it is a sort of... Halve breaths all the time [tries to mimic it, quick and shallow breaths]. No deep breaths."* (Mother, patient 3 y)
- Q25. *"I know the basics. I also know there are tricks with the skin, but I think I should have seen that once. But I know that the basis is: if your kid has a fever, pay attention to the nappies and that he drinks enough."* (Mother, patient 8 mo)
- Q26. *"He has never had that. So I don't know whether I would recognize it. Maybe I would. That he would get a dryer skin, that kind of stuff. [...] I think you will only see the difference if you have seen it once before."* (Mother, patient 7 mo)

- Q27. *"We have never experienced this. So you're going to consider: what have we experienced before, and have we ever encountered such a situation? Well, we had never had such an experience and we thought it looked quite extreme. So we thought, we have to seek help."* (Father, patient 8 mo)
- Q28. *"It is a lot more difficult with your first child than with your second child. [...] We have been worried a lot more with our first one. Just a lack of experience."* (Father, patient 1 y)
- Q29. *"Mother: Especially the first few weeks were quite difficult. Because then you don't understand the different cries well: is she hungry now or is she just tired? You just don't know that well enough. [...]
Father: At some point just know better what's right and what's wrong.
Mother: Yeah, you get to know your child better."* (patient 2 mo)
- Q30. *"I would be happy if she could say herself: owie ouch, or this, or that. Because you have to judge it yourself and hope you are right."* (Mother, patient 4 mo)
- Q31. *"Father: And now he says it himself, that he is short of breath.
Mother: Yeah, that makes a big difference."* (patient 3 y)