

NEW CLOTHING LINE GIVES TODDLERS AN EXTRA BUFFER

Angela White and her husband Gill Baxter took all the precautions they knew to protect their son, Elijah, from bumps and bruises.

But their efforts became more difficult when Elijah, who has severe hemophilia, began the active crawling and climbing that comes with the toddler stage.

"We were having a real problem with tissue bleeding. Elijah was starting to become very active and developed tissue bleeds, which is completely normal for a baby with a severe bleeding disorder," White says. "We tried knee pads, ace bandages, extra cotton in the clothing but none of these worked."

Elijah was about 10 months old and learning to stand when he fell and landed on his buttocks. The severe tissue bleed that resulted had the family going to the hospital for five days. Not long after, he fell again, on the same spot, starting another round of hospital trips.

Desperate and frustrated, White realized that she couldn't prevent Elijah from trying to stand and walk, but she could improve the cushioning between him and the floor *when*

he fell. So, she sewed some of the foam from under the carpet into an extra diaper that Elijah wore.

Elijah's next bleed healed much faster than the first, and it sparked another light bulb in White. And Bruisey Bee—a padded clothing line for infants and toddlers with bleeding disorders—was born.

Launched this year, Bruisey Bee is the first clothing line dedicated, designed and tested to alleviate and help prevent deep-tissue bleeding—with padding in the shins, knees and buttocks. The line includes an assortment of overalls, denim pants and shirts that can be machine-washed and dried.

"For us, the real joy is the feeling that we can do something to help Elijah and other children like him," White says.

Bruisey Bee can be purchased by phone at (707) 823-1482 or online at www.bruiseybee.com.

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