

'I love you mum': Mother's tears as son utters first words since he was paralysed in car accident 20 years ago

By David Baker

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An emotional mother has described the heartbreaking moment her paralysed son spoke for the first time in nearly 20 years to utter three touching words - 'I love you'.

Having defied all the odds and doctors who said Simon Ellis would never talk again, his proud and excited mother, Diane Franklin, said: 'It is very exciting, especially since it is something that we never thought would happen.'

Simon, 37, suffered horrific injuries including brain damage and two skull fractures whilst a passenger in a car that smashed into a wall in Great Wenham, near Ipswich, on June 26, 1992.

The then 18-year-old was left quadriplegic, meaning he could not use his arms and legs, and doctors told his devastated family he would never be able to speak to them again.

But after 19 years of silence Ms Franklin, 61, is overjoyed with her son's progress after he finally said those precious words.

And since speaking for the first time over Christmas, Simon has not stopped at 'I love you' as he rebuilds his vocabulary.

'He is really getting there and it is amazing to see,' said Ms Franklin, a mother of four.

'We have been just using flash cards and we have been so pleased with the response.'

'Since saying I love you he has been saying his brother's name, Andy, and he also said Hilary which is his sister's name.'

'He is getting there and he can now say when he's hungry.'

'We know it is still very early stages but we are making amazing progress.'

Ms Franklin continued: 'Every day we come in to see him someone comes up to us and says he has said something new.'

Following the crash, in which the driver miraculously escaped unscathed, Simon spent two years in hospital before being admitted to the Sue Ryder Care home in Ipswich, where he has remained since.

In his time at the specialist home courageous Simon has celebrated a number of milestones.

He got his facial expressions back after four years and learned how to eat again.

Ms Franklin saluted staff at the home for their care and hard work in helping to transform Simon and give the family new hope.

Centre manager Laura Gill said: 'We are absolutely thrilled with the progress Simon is making and we hope his speech continues to improve with the help of specialists.'

'It's fantastic to see him so happy, full of life and able to share his wonderful sense of humour'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2092037/I-love-mum-Mothers-tears-son-utters-words-paralysed-car-accident-20-years-ago.html>