I was confused. First I had been told that Matthew just had a cold. Then the doctor at the clinic said he had asthma. Now I was being told that he had croup. Which one did he have, if any? Why didn’t anyone agree? Was he going to be okay?

“Croup is often mistaken for asthma, especially in young children”, the doctor explained, “but croup affects the throat and the wind-pipe instead of the lungs. With croup we often hear a sharp, bary cough and sometimes we can hear a high pitched sound when the child breathes in. This sound is called stridor. When a child has asthma we hear a wheezing sound when they breathe out. This is one way that we can tell the difference between croup and asthma.”

She explained that the medicine that I had been giving Matthew at home would not help with croup. Instead, she said that the nurse would give him a drug called epinephrine through a mask, and that this would help him breathe. She explained that the