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# The cactus juice that helps ease a boy's asthma



By Alistair Hopkins

COMPUTER expert Mike Piranty was so impressed when the wonder-cacti extract aloe vera reduced the symptoms of his four-year-old son Daniel's asthma he decided to sell the product full time.

Now his wife Sue and other son Scott, aged two, take a daily dose of the thick green liquid to shore up their bodies' defences against the common cold and other illnesses.

Next year he will step back from the hands-on running of his Cheltenham-based firm Phoenix and start work as a sales distributor for Potever Living Products.

Mr Piranty, of Stamsger Lane, Painswick, Gloucestershire, said: "I went along to speak to the company and decided it was something we really liked."

"Since using aloe vera we are all as healthy as anything now."

"If we have serious problems we go to the doctor's but this product is good at building up your immune system."

Running his own computer company brought immense stresses and

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strains on Mr Piranty, 38, and he admits he was prone to niggling illnesses like flu and bad hay fever.

He said: "Now I have no excuse for being ill. Although I do get ill occasionally it only lasts a very short time."

A Buckinghamshire-based GP, Dr Peter Atherton, has been awarded an Oxford Research Fellowship to study the effects of aloe vera on psoriasis, eczema, wound healing, irritable bowel syndrome and chronic leg ulcers.

Dr Atherton says its natural anti-inflammatory qualities promote cell growth and healing.



Mike Piranty with Daniel, whose asthma was helped by aloe vera