

Reactions in infancy may disappear later in life

From page 17.

"We've made an appointment for him to see an allergist specializing in babies. Our doctor said to hold off on peanut butter, even though that's not something he would have right now anyway," said McLellan.

"Our doctor didn't want to speculate at this point."

It may be some time before

McLellan knows exactly what ingredient in the cereal made Brad react as he did, but Markham family physician Steve McLaren says such reactions to rice cereals are rare.

And allergy tests may not be conclusive.

"They won't necessarily be able to say what he was allergic to. And as an adult or child patient, if you get tested and have a reaction, it doesn't mean that's what caused the problem. They

may also have no reaction when they experience the food later in life," McLaren said.

McLellan says introducing new foods to infants can be a tricky task, but the general rule, especially for vegetables, is to introduce one new one every five to seven days.

"If you're going to get a reaction, you'll certainly know what the product was," he said.

The way children react to various

foods can often be confused as being an allergic reaction when often it is not, McLaren said.

Introducing new foods to infants can be a tricky task, but the general rule, especially for vegetables, is to introduce one new one every five to seven days.

For example, a child may react badly to a milk product but it may not be an allergic reaction. Rather, the baby may be lactose intolerant.

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