

Patient Information Factsheet – Children’s Glasses

Department of Ophthalmology

Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to give you information concerning children’s glasses. It will also help remind you of instructions, which the doctor, orthoptist or optometrist may give. Please feel free to ask any further questions you may have.

Glasses Prescription

Following your child’s eye examination, if glasses are prescribed you will be given a voucher towards the cost of glasses.

- This voucher can be taken to any registered optician who will be able to advise you on the correct choice of frames for your child and the final cost of the glasses.
- Vouchers are available to children up to 16 years of age, or up to 19 years for those who are in full time education.
- The value of the voucher is dependent on the strength of the lenses.
- Your child is entitled to a voucher whenever there is a change of prescription or the glasses become unserviceable.
- If you choose glasses which cost more than the voucher, then you will have to pay the difference in cost yourself.
- Please note that glasses for children under 16 years can **only be legally dispensed by a registered optician.**

Frames

- Babies may require loop end sides on the glasses which will need ribbon (not elastic) to achieve a secure fit.
- Toddlers and young children may need curl sides to keep glasses securely in place.

Frame Fitting

- Children's glasses may need frequent re-adjustments which your optician will do for you. It is important that the glasses are fitting correctly so that your child is looking through the centre of the lenses and that the frames are comfortable to wear.

Lost or Broken Glasses

- Children's glasses can often get broken, so choosing a local optician may be more convenient for when repairs and frame adjustments are needed.
- For the under 16's, your optician can issue a voucher (GOS 4) to help with the cost of repairs or replacements. This can be done without an extra prescription from the hospital.

Spare Pairs of Glasses

- Vouchers for a spare pair of glasses are not automatically available.
- Spare pairs can be purchased from your optician at the full cost. Please speak to your local optician about this.

Eye Tests

- Whilst your child is attending the Eye Clinic, we will arrange and provide any eye tests that are necessary.
- Your child should not have their sight tested elsewhere whilst under the care of the hospital.

Summary

- You can take the voucher to any registered optician to help towards the cost of your child's glasses.
- Your child is entitled to a voucher whenever there is a change of prescription or the glasses become unserviceable.

Date of publication: October 2016
Author: K. Kathuria/Treatment Centre
Reference Number: V1.1 (October 2017)
Review Date: October 2020
© East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

www.enhertr.nhs.uk

You can request this information in a different format or another language.

