

Developmental Vision Clinic

Wolfson Neurodisability Service

A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a blue polo shirt and light blue jeans, sitting on a light-colored carpet. He is smiling and looking down at a baby sitting on his lap. The man is holding a small blue cup and saucer. The baby is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and white pants. In the foreground, there is a yellow teapot and several other teacups and saucers, suggesting a tea party. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Information for families

Great Ormond Street Hospital
for Children NHS Foundation Trust

What is the Developmental Vision Clinic?

The clinic provides assessment of your child's functional vision and also of their development. Based on these findings we will make practical recommendations to help your child at home or school.

Our vision assessments will determine your child's level of vision and how they are able to use vision in everyday life. This should complement information available from your child's eye doctor (ophthalmologist).

We work closely with local services, including specialist advisory teachers, to provide advice and support for parents and local professionals.

Members of the team

The team have specialist expertise in understanding and facilitating the development and progress of children with visual difficulties. The team members vary depending on the child's need, but will generally include a consultant paediatrician and clinical psychologist and sometimes an occupational therapist and speech and language therapist.

Who we see

- Infants whose main problem is severe visual impairment. We aim to see these children as soon as possible after diagnosis to ensure parents and professionals receive support and advice early to avoid any preventable delays in development. These children are initially followed up at six month intervals.
- Older children with severe visual impairment where there is a specific concern about the child's development (for example, delays in learning to talk, lack of progress at school, difficulty in forming social relationships or behaviour difficulties). We also see older children with a question of cerebral visual processing difficulties.



For more information on the Developmental Vision Clinic please contact the clinic secretary on 020 7405 9200 ext 1142

- Children who have additional disabilities where there are specific questions about their vision or development.
- We have a specialist developmental clinic for children with Septo-Optic Dysplasia.

The clinic visit

If you are unable to attend your appointment please let us know as soon as possible so that this slot can be offered to someone else.

When you arrive, please check in at the Outpatient Reception Desk on the ground floor of the hospital. Appointments last approximately two to three and a half hours and may involve some waiting, so do bring a snack. It is also helpful if you bring copies of recent assessment reports. You are welcome to bring local professionals, but please inform the clinic secretary in advance.

The assessment usually takes the following format:

- 1) Time is spent talking to you to learn about your child's history and current behaviour and to understand your concerns and questions.
- 2) An assessment of your child's vision and development will follow, with you closely involved.
- 3) The team will spend a short time together to consider the findings of the assessment.
- 4) We finish by discussing with you the results of the assessment and our recommendations.
- 5) You will be given a short summary of the findings and recommendations and a full report will follow in the post.

We may ask for your permission to video record the assessment for clinical and training purposes.

Audit and research in the Developmental Vision Clinic

- We keep a secure registered database of clinical information for audit purposes that may be used to improve quality of care. All data is strictly confidential and will only be used in an anonymous way (so no child can be identified).
- We also use anonymised patient data, collected during routine care, to understand more about the development of children with visual impairment. This increases our knowledge of children's conditions and the impact of our care. In addition, we are actively involved in ethics approved research projects and may ask you and your child if you are interested in hearing more about how you could take part.

Please let a member of the team know if you wish to discuss any of the information on this leaflet.

Further practical information, advice and support on many other aspects of visual impairment is also available from the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer who is based within the Ophthalmology (Eye) Clinic. You can telephone her on 020 7405 9200 extension 0345, email her at ecls@gosh.nhs.uk or visit her during your visit to GOSH.

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