

Department of Optometry, Oxford Eye Hospital

Paediatric Low Vision Assessment Clinic

Information for parents



What is low vision?

Low vision is reduced vision even with both eyes open and when wearing the appropriate spectacles. It results in difficulty when performing everyday tasks.

What is the aim of the low vision assessment clinic?

The aim of the clinic is to explore what your child can see, to discuss the difficulties that may be caused by the reduced vision, and to offer practical solutions where possible.

We aim to provide your child with the necessary optical aids to perform everyday tasks. For example, this may be a pair of spectacles and /or a magnifier to help with reading.

The Optometrist will also give you and your child advice and information to maximize your child's vision potential – such as advice on lighting, colour contrast and font size. They will also give you written information on your child's eye condition.

The clinic is part of a multidisciplinary low vision service centred on your child's individual requirements. We work closely with all those involved in caring for your child, such as the community paediatrician. If referrals to other professionals who can help maximise your child's visual function (e.g. the special education services and the community rehabilitation team) are appropriate, we will discuss this with you.

The length of the appointment is very individual and can

be tailored to suit your child's needs. A typical assessment (which includes a glasses check) takes about one hour. Subsequent follow up appointments take about half an hour. The frequency of follow up appointments will be discussed at the end of each visit. This can always be changed if any new concerns come to light.

How do I make an appointment for my child to be seen?

A referral must be made by a health professional (e.g. GP, Paediatrician, Optometrist or Ophthalmologist). Once we receive the referral we will send an appointment to your child in the post.

When does the clinic take place?

The clinic is currently held on Tuesday mornings.

Who will my child see in the clinic?

A senior Optometrist from The Optometry Department at Oxford Eye Hospital.

Who do I contact if I need to change the appointment?

Please call the Optometry Department on 01865 234740. Please make sure that when you phone you have your child's hospital number to hand. Please request that your child's appointment is rebooked into the Paediatric Low Vision Clinic by quoting clinic code WY916.

Who do I contact if I have any concerns about my child's vision?

Any sudden changes in vision or new symptoms of concern should be reported to Eye Casualty on 01865 234800.

Any other concerns can be reported to your child's Consultant Ophthalmologist at their appointment or to the Optometrist that your child saw in the Low Vision Clinic.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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Version 1, February 2011
Review, February 2014
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