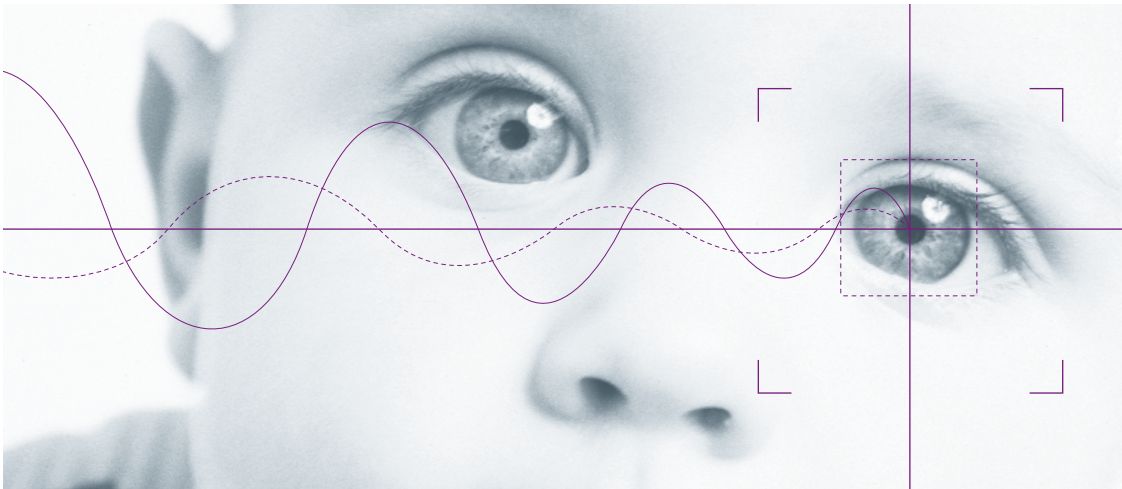


## Children's glasses

The Eye (Ophthalmology) Department  
The Royal London Hospital



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## Introduction

This leaflet explains how to obtain glasses for your child using the Hospital Eye Service voucher system. It also gives you general information on looking after your child's glasses and what to do if the glasses are lost or damaged.

## The voucher system

If an eye examination shows that your child needs glasses you will be given a voucher to help pay for the cost of the glasses. Your child must be under 16 years of age, or under 19 and in full time education, to be entitled to a voucher from the Hospital Eye Service.

Your child's glasses prescription will be written on the voucher and you will need to take the voucher to a registered dispensing optician. It is illegal for an unregistered person to dispense glasses to children. The voucher is only valid for six months so you should obtain your child's glasses as soon as possible.

You can choose to have the glasses made by the dispensing optician at the hospital, or you can go to an optician nearer to your home. If you decide to go to a local optician (this can be easier as children's glasses often need repairing) your voucher must be stamped by the Marie Celeste Samaritan Society which is in the hospital.

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## Obtaining your child's glasses

Children's glasses can only be fitted with the child present so make sure your child is with you when you go to the dispensing optician. Don't forget to take the voucher. It is also important to take your child when you go back to collect the glasses in case small adjustments have to be made to ensure the glasses fit.

The dispensing optician will let you know how much the voucher is worth. The voucher will usually cover the cost of glasses with a basic frame, and their repair or replacement, but you will find the range of basic frames is small. However, if you choose a more expensive frame you will have to pay the difference and there is no guarantee that more costly frames will be repaired or replaced free of charge.

Your child should wear their glasses all the time unless you have been given other advice by the eye doctor, orthoptist or optometrist.

## Broken or lost glasses

You are entitled to repairs and replacement glasses for up to a year. You do not need another voucher from the hospital for this service. If the glasses were free then repairs and replacements will be free. Simply take your child back to the optician who dispensed the glasses and they will arrange this for you.

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## **Badly fitting glasses**

It is very important that glasses fit children well; adjustments are frequently necessary. If your child complains their glasses are no longer comfortable, or if you notice their glasses are slipping down their nose or are bent, take your child back to the dispensing optician who will be happy to make adjustments.

## **Spare glasses and prescription sunglasses**

You can use the prescription that is on the voucher to buy a spare pair of glasses for your child, or a pair of prescription sunglasses, but you are not automatically entitled to a second voucher to cover the cost. You will usually have to pay for them yourself. Second vouchers are only given in exceptional circumstances for clinical reasons only.

## **The next eye examination**

Your eye doctor, orthoptist or optometrist will let you know when your child needs another eye test. Tests are normally carried out once a year but it may be necessary to retest some children more frequently.

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## Contact details

### Ophthalmology Department

The Royal London Hospital  
Whitechapel  
London E1 1BB

[www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk](http://www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk)

If you would like more information please  
contact one of the following at  
The Royal London Hospital:

### Dispensing Optician

020 7377 7000 ext. 2506

### Orthoptic Department

020 7377 7000 ext. 2485



