

### Extra/spare pairs of glasses

Each child is normally entitled to one voucher per year, dependant on the strength of the prescription.

However, you may buy extra pairs of the same prescription.

With very young children (and more active older children), adjustments are often necessary very frequently. Don't be embarrassed at asking the optician to adjust glasses often, they are used to it. It is very important that your child is looking through the centre of the lenses to obtain the full effect of the prescription.

### Future glasses tests

While your child is under the care of the Eye Unit at Epsom and St Helier hospitals, we will provide all tests necessary.

Generally, the test for glasses prescription is carried out once per year unless the eye doctor, orthoptist or hospital optician/optometrist feel it needs to be performed more frequently.

It is not necessary to take your child to your own optician for further examination while attending the Eye Unit at Epsom and St Helier hospitals.

**As this leaflet is a general guide only, please ask any specific questions you may have when you attend the hospital or contact the Eye Unit on 020 8296 3800.**

### Patients notes and questions

This booklet was given to the patient by:

.....



#### Join our pursuit to put the Patient First!

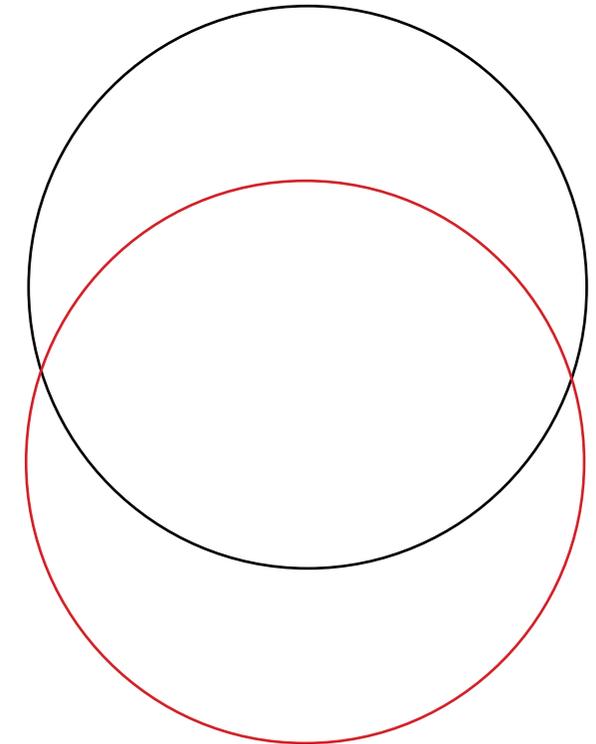
Be an #esthchampion and join our dedicated patient programme. You'll get all the latest news and exclusive invitations to special events, so sign up at [epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/patientfirst](https://epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/patientfirst) or call 020 8296 4996.

Author: Eleanor Burley  
Date published: March 2017  
Review date: March 2018

*Great care to every patient,  
every day*



Epsom and St Helier  
University Hospitals  
NHS Trust



Obtaining  
children's glasses

Information for  
patients

## NHS vouchers for children's glasses

Following the clinical examination (often using dilating eye drops), if your child needs glasses, you will be given a white form which is the glasses prescription voucher (HESP voucher).

The HESP voucher is given to children under 16 and entitles the parent/guardian to help towards the cost of purchasing the glasses. The amount varies according to the prescription strength required. Your optician (optometrist) will be able to tell you the exact amount that you are entitled to. If you choose glasses which exceed the voucher amount, then you pay the difference in cost yourself.

Children are normally only entitled to one voucher per year; an extra voucher may be given dependent in exceptional circumstances and is dependent upon strength of glasses prescription required.

### What to do with the voucher

The voucher may be taken to any registered optician/optometrist who will then make up the glasses.

The voucher must be used within 6 months of issue.

Take your child with you when you order the glasses and when you collect them so that the optician/optometrist can check the fit properly.

The optician/optometrist should also advise on the type of frame best suited to your child's face shape and size.

It is recommended that children are measured and fitted for their glasses by an ophthalmic optician/optometrist only.

Once you have the glasses, your child should wear them all the time unless otherwise advised by the orthoptist, eye doctor or hospital optician/optometrist.

### General 'tips' when buying children's glasses

- Shop around, prices of frames vary considerably, therefore looking around is advisable. Children's glasses can often get broken, so a local optician/optometrist may be more convenient for repairs and expensive frames may not be advisable.
- Check the final amount you will have to pay before ordering the glasses.
- Infants' glasses, adaptations are available (eg curly ear pieces, special nose pads) to help in achieving a comfortable fit. Ask your optician about these.

## Difficulties once the glasses are obtained

Broken or lost glasses

Return to the optician/optometrist who supplied the original pair who may be able to repair or replace the glasses free of charge, using a GOS4 form.

Opticians/optometrists do not necessarily need another voucher from the hospital to do this.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining repairs or replacement pairs of glasses, please contact the Eye Unit.

Poorly fitting/loose glasses.

If your child's glasses are too tight or too loose he/she may be reluctant to wear them. Return to the optician/optometrist who supplied them who should adjust them to fit comfortably again.

With very young children (and more active older children), adjustments are often necessary very frequently. Don't be embarrassed at asking the optician to adjust glasses often, they are used to it. It is very important that your child is looking through the centre of the lenses to obtain the full effect of the prescription.