

## My child's glasses do not seem to fit properly anymore

If your child's glasses are too tight or too loose, he/she may be reluctant to wear them. Most optometrists are happy to adjust them for you.

With very young children (and more active older children), adjustments are often necessary. Don't be embarrassed at asking the optometrist 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.

## Can I get a spare pair of glasses?

Each child is entitled to one voucher per year. Vouchers for spare pairs are only issued at the discretion of the hospital optometrist or eye doctor.

However, provided the prescription is less than one-year old you may buy extra pairs at private cost.

## When will my child need to be retested for glasses?

While your child is under the care of the Eye Service we will provide all tests necessary.

Generally, the test for glasses prescription is carried out once per year unless your eye care professional feels it is necessary to do it more frequently.

It is not necessary to take your child for examination by your own optometrist or any other eye specialist whilst attending the Eye Service, unless you have been specifically advised to do so.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining repairs or a replacement pair of glasses or have any questions, please contact:

**Orthoptic Department**  
**01225 824614** or

**Optometry Department**  
**01225 824609**

Orthoptic Department B29  
Royal United Hospital Bath  
Combe Park  
Bath  
BA1 3NG

**Tel 01225 824614**

## **RUH** Obtaining children's glasses



## NHS Vouchers for children's glasses

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If, following the glasses test by the optometrist or eye doctor, your child needs glasses, you may be given two forms. One which is for the glasses prescription voucher (HES(P)1 form, and one for you to keep as a copy.

The HES(P)1 voucher is given to children under 16 and to under 19's who are in full time education. It entitles the parent/guardian to help towards the cost of purchasing the glasses.

The voucher value varies according to the prescription strength. Your Optometrist (optician) will be able to tell you the exact amount you are entitled to. If you choose glasses which exceed the voucher value, then you may have to pay the difference in cost yourself.

## All children are entitled to one voucher per year

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Extra vouchers are issued only in special circumstances at the discretion of the eye doctor or hospital optometrist.

## What do I do with the Voucher?

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The voucher may be taken to ANY registered optometrist, who will then make up the glasses. We advise the voucher is used within six months of issue. Opticians cannot repair or replace glasses if the prescription is more than 12 months old.

Take your child with you when you order the glasses, and when you collect them, so that the optometrist can check the fit properly. A good fit is essential.

The optometrist can also advise on the type of frame best suited to your child's prescription and their face shape and size. Once you have the glasses, your child should wear them all the time unless otherwise advised by the Optometrist, Orthoptist, or eye doctor.

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

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**Shop Around:** The choice and price of frames varies considerably, therefore shopping around is advisable. Some Optometrists now offer a wide choice of frames that are covered by the value of the voucher.

Ask them to show you what is available. Designer frames are naturally more expensive but may not necessarily offer the most robust design for young children.

**Check the final amount you will have to pay before ordering the glasses.**

## Infants glasses

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Many special adaptations are available (e.g. curly earpieces, special nose pads), to help in achieving a comfortable fit. Ask your optician about these.

## What do I do if my child loses or breaks the glasses?

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You do not necessarily need to return to the optometrist who supplied the original pair. Any registered optometrist should fill in a form on your behalf to cover cost of repair or replacement and may be able to repair or replace the glasses free of charge.

If you choose expensive frames you may have to contribute towards repairs.