

Child Development Centre



Children's Unit

This leaflet has been written to answer some of your questions about the Child Development Centre.

What is the Child Development Centre?

Some children are slow to develop their movement or language, or have difficult behaviour. Some of these children may have problems with their learning. The Child Development Centre is a team of specialists which provides help for these children. The team can assess your child and discuss treatment.

How are children referred?

If you have worries about your child contact your GP or Health Visitor, who can refer your child to the Child Development Centre. Other health professionals can also refer your child.

How do we get there?

A map is enclosed. If you have no transport and are unable to use the bus, please let us know. If you are in receipt of Income Support you may be able to collect the cost of your bus fare from the Cashiers Office on Level B.

Who will I see?

A paediatrician will see your child for their first appointment. The paediatrician will decide with you if another team member needs to see your child.



How can you help us?

Your child's first appointment is likely to last for at least an hour. If you cannot come to your appointment please tell us as soon as possible.

Please help us improve our service by letting us have your ideas and comments.

Working with parents

You may have questions about your child's treatment or want to discuss alternative therapies. If you do, please ask your child's paediatrician or therapist. The Child Development Centre team meet regularly to discuss the children they see. We will discuss our thoughts with you so that together we can plan for your child.

Twice a year we run a set of evening seminars. These are for parents of children who have social communication difficulties. This includes possible Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Members of our team lead discussions and we invite outside speakers. Everyone benefits from sharing information with each other.

Communication

The paediatrician and therapists will write a report each time they see your child. They will send a copy of the report to you, your GP, Health Visitor and relevant Health Professionals. We want everyone to be working together to help your child. We will ask you if we can send a copy of the report to other professionals involved with your child. For example, it may be helpful to send copies to therapists, school or Education.

Who will see me and my child?

When you first come to the Centre it can be difficult to know who the staff are and how they can help your child. Please look at the photo board to see who's who. Your child may need to see several of the people who work here.

Here is some information about the staff who work together at the Centre:

Secretary

The secretaries help with the day-to-day running of the centre. They type reports and letters and arrange meetings. They will be able to advise you on who to contact if you have a problem.

Telephone No. **01483 571122 ext 2418**

Clinic Nurse

The clinic nurse will weigh and measure your child before you see the doctor. If needed she will take blood samples, measure blood pressure and arrange other tests.

Paediatricians

This is the name for doctors who specialise in children. Your first visit to the paediatrician will last about an hour. During the visit the doctor may assess your child's general health, hearing, eyesight, skills, language, movement, social and emotional development. They will discuss their findings, any worries you may have and agree a plan with you. The doctor may want to refer your child to one of the other specialists in the team.

Clinical Child Psychologist

The clinical psychologist can help you with your child's behaviour by assessing and observing your child and by talking to you about your child. The psychologist will then discuss with you ideas to help you manage your child's behaviour.

Speech & Language Therapist

The Speech and Language Therapist will look at how your child talks, understands and communicates. They will watch your child playing and may do some tests as well as discussing your child with you.

The Speech and Language Therapist may see your child in clinic or can visit nurseries and schools to advise staff. They may offer home visits to see your child at their most relaxed and provide you with practical suggestions.

They will also see children who have feeding difficulties.

Joint Appointments

The Clinical Psychologist and Speech and Language Therapist may offer you a joint appointment. They work together to assess children who have problems with their social skills. They will assess how your child interacts with other people and your child's play, behaviour and thinking skills.

Sometimes they visit children at home, nursery or school. This can help them provide advice to you and others working with your child.

Physiotherapist

The physiotherapist may see your child at the Jarvis Centre, and also at home, nursery or school. They advise on how to position, move and play with your child to help the development of movement and posture. The physiotherapist will work with you to make treatment part of everyday life.

Occupational Therapist

The occupational therapist may see your child at the Jarvis Centre. They may also see your child at home, nursery or school. The occupational therapist assesses and treats children with sensory or motor problems and learning difficulties. They may work with you and your child to help your child gain the skills they need for everyday life through play and other activities.

Epilepsy Clinic

There are special clinics for children who have epilepsy or possible epilepsy. We have an epilepsy nurse who can meet with families of children with epilepsy.

How we work together

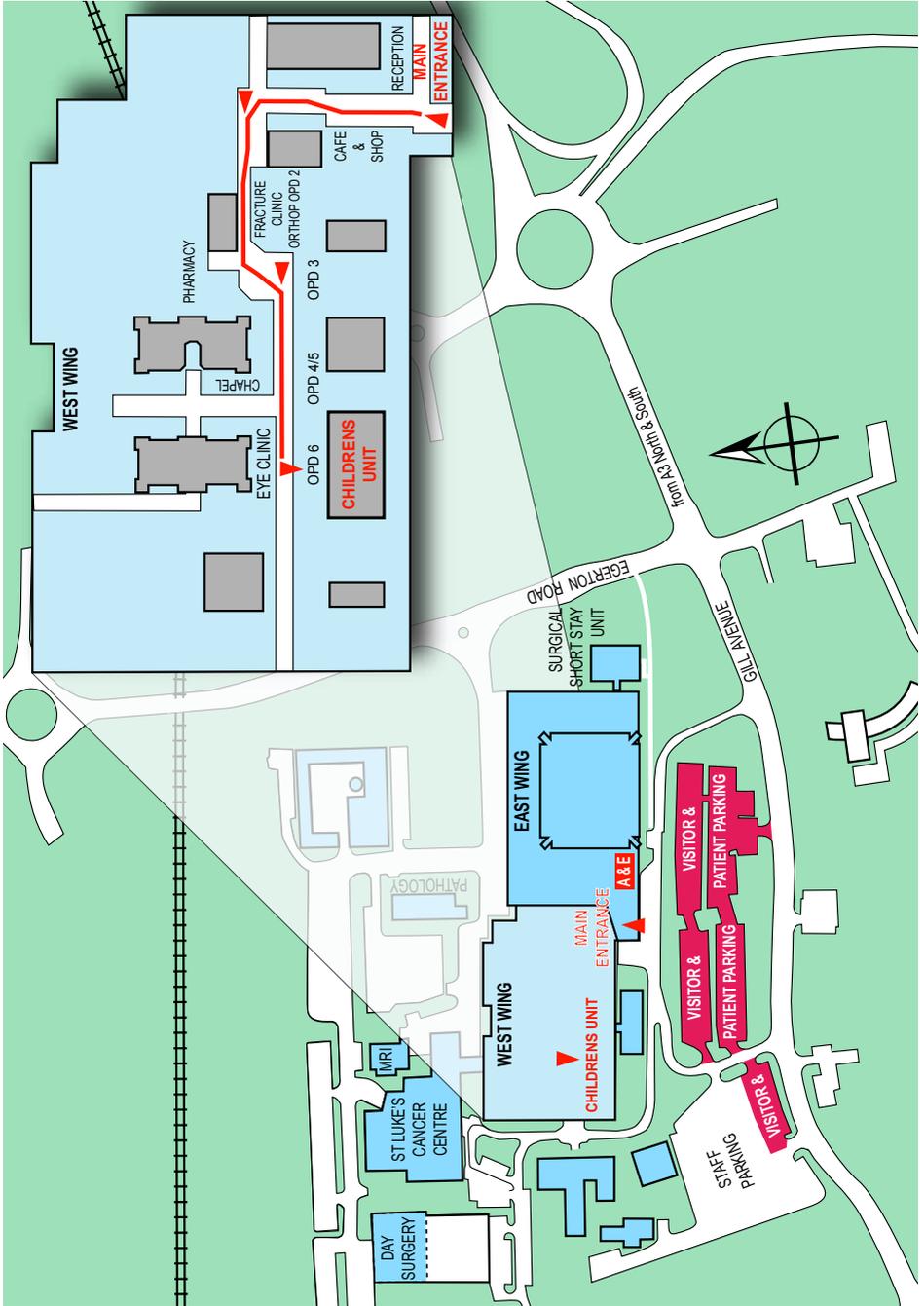
We regularly meet with our colleagues in health and education to discuss children we see. Colleagues may include: Early Years Improvement advisors, Portage teachers, Educational psychologists, Surrey Early Support Service.

Leaflets are available about our information sharing. Your paediatrician will be happy to discuss this with you at your first visit.

Toy Library

If your child attends the Child Development Centre you can borrow toys from the Toy Library based at Guildford Children's Centre, Hazel Avenue, Bellfields. It is run by a volunteer and has many toys, jigsaws and games. Many of the toys have been designed for children with special needs. Your doctor or therapist may suggest toys.

MAP



Contact details

Telephone No. **01483 571122 ext 2418**

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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