

Your baby or child has been found to have a vision loss

Finding your baby or child has a vision loss can stir lots of emotions, questions and worries. We are here to help you understand your emotions, answer your questions and talk to you about your worries.

We can help you from the time you find your baby or child is found to have a vision loss to the time they leave school. We can provide additional teaching support and support for life skills and getting around with reduced or no vision.

We can talk about the things you can do and the games you can play to encourage your baby or child to respond and learn. Together we can see if your baby or child is reaching their milestones like other children of their age. If your baby or child is, then brilliant! If not, then we can look at what is stopping them and think about what needs to happen next.

We can decide together how often we would like to meet. This might be every week, every other week or less often. After we have met, we will send you a report so you have a record of what we have talked about. We may also leave information for you to look at.

You may have regular appointments for your baby or child to go to the Ophthalmology or Orthoptist Departments at the hospital. We will take the time to explain results, answer questions and talk about what needs to happen next. It is important that you make every effort to attend all their appointments.

As your baby or child gets older, the way we help changes. If your baby or child goes to a child minder or nursery, then we can help you to show people there how to support the visual needs of your child. We want everyone to be confident with the support they give your child. We can also suggest things they can do to encourage them to interact and discover the world about them.

When your child goes to school, we can carry on seeing them there. We help staff to understand about vision loss and the things they need to do to make sure your child can take part in lessons like everyone else. The amount of time we see your child will depend on how they use their vision to learn and to read and to produce work. They may use tactile activities and braille or they may use enlarged or modified print. If they need it we like to give children and young people equipment they can learn to use so that they learn to work independently in class. Your child may also need support gaining confidence with moving around (their mobility and orientation) and we can support this too.

If you would like, we can put you in touch with other parents who have babies and children with vision loss and with other people who can help.

Working together we can help your baby or child grow into an independent young person who is happy, confident and ready start school and eventually move on to adult life.

If you would like to find out more about what we do or what else is available for families locally, please look at our Local Offer on the North East Lincolnshire Council Website.

The web address is: <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer/>

If you have any compliments, queries or questions, please get in touch. We would like to hear from you.