What are health visitors?

Health visitors are qualified nurses or midwives with specialist public health training. We are trained in child health & development and protecting children.

We advise and support the health and wellbeing of babies, children to the age of five and their families. Our teams include community staff nurses or midwives, community nursery nurses and administrative staff.

Our core contacts are:
- Antenatal
- new birth visit
- 6-8 week visit
- developmental reviews at 9-12 and 24-30 months
- Contacting you when you move into a new area.
Health visitors work to promote equal health opportunities, reduce health inequalities, promote health and wellbeing and provide services to children, families and communities.

We hold regular child health clinics. You can also contact us at any time for advice on your child’s health and development or your health and wellbeing.

We work closely and in partnership with GPs, midwives, school health nurses, early years settings, children’s centres, community & voluntary settings and Social and Health Care.
What services do health visitors provide?

Working in the community:

We make sure you know about the services available in your community and help you to access them.

A healthy start for your family:

We lead the Healthy Child Programme to ensure a healthy start for your family. This programme includes immunisations, development checks, baby clinics and health promotion advice. We also provide support to help you develop healthy relationships with your baby and child. We call this aspect of our work ‘Universal Services’.

Providing additional support:

We provide additional support that any family may need. For example; parenting support, advice for a sleepless baby, support with post-natal depression or anxiety, infant feeding or breastfeeding difficulties. We call this aspect of our work ‘Universal Plus’.

Working with other agencies:

We work together with other agencies to provide additional services for families requiring on-going support for more complex issues. We call this aspect of our work ‘Universal Partnership Plus’.
“When I need advice I can go to the child health clinic and talk to a health visitor”

“The health visitor offers me such valuable support, it’s hard to put it into words”

“I felt confident and comfortable to ask them for help and advice”
How do I contact my health visitor?

The health visiting service is available from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays). Please contact your health visitor with any questions or concerns.

Notes:
Comments, suggestions and complaints
We are committed to providing a high standard of professional support and advice. To help us maintain this we welcome any feedback that you have regarding your experiences of our service. Please share your comments, suggestions, and positive feedback with a member of the team. Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). PALS provides advice and support to patients, their families and carers and can help to resolve any problems, concerns or complaints that you may have. You can contact PALS free on telephone 0800 328 7971, or by email: PALS@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
Please contact us if you would like the information in another language or different format.

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