

What is Orthoptics?

Orthoptists are the experts in diagnosing and treating defects in eye movement and problems with how the eyes work together, called binocular vision.

Your **Orthoptist** is a member of the hospital eye care team, and tends to work closely with **Ophthalmologists** (Doctors) and **Optometrists** (Opticians).

Orthoptists are trained to assess both **children** and **adults**.



Our Role

Orthoptists specialise in disorders of:

- Eye Movement
- Strabismus (Squint)
- Binocular Vision
- Amblyopia (Lazy Eye)

Our Orthoptists also have extended roles in other areas including...

- Paediatric Low Vision
- Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities
- Visual Problems following Stroke
- Thyroid Eye Disease
- School Screening
- Reading Difficulties
- Eye Strain
- Glaucoma
- Retinal Disease
- Cornea

Children

Orthoptists assess children of all ages, from young babies to school-aged children.

They usually assess the vision with letter or picture tests, but use other methods if this is not possible.

They also assess the position of the eyes and how well they work and move together as a pair. Your Orthoptist will be able to provide you with useful information about your child's visual ability, such as whether or not they have a **squint** (turn in the eye) or **amblyopia** (a lazy eye). They will also be able to refer your child for a paediatric glasses test or eye doctor appointment if necessary.



Adults

An Orthoptist's main role in adult assessment is to investigate and treat disorders of eye movement which may lead to symptoms such as **double vision, blurred or oscillating vision**.

However, they see a wide range of adult patients and you may be referred to see an Orthoptist despite having no double vision.

Our Clinics

The Orthoptic Department is based at **Torbay Hospital**, although it may sometimes be possible to arrange some appointments at one of our **Community clinics**.

- Newton Abbot
- Paignton
- Brixham
- Totnes
- Teignmouth
- Dawlish

Your Orthoptic Team...

Jane Woods (*Head Orthoptist*)

- Children with learning disabilities

Kathy Diplock

- Adults with learning disabilities

Hannah Stewart

- Reading difficulties
- Lead clinical tutor
- Medical retina

Katrina Farmer

- Stroke & Brain Injury
- Cornea
- Paediatric ophthalmology

Hannah Harrison

- Glaucoma
- Reading difficulties
- Children with learning disabilities

Philippa Lower

- Stroke and Brain Injury
- Paediatric low vision
- Medical retina

Stephanie Yates

- Medical retina
- Reading difficulties

Tom Hancox

- Glaucoma

Louise Godwin

- Vision Screening

Contact details

 TorbayAndSouthDevonFT

 @TorbaySDevonNHS

www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

Orthoptist



Orthoptic
Department
01803 655122

Working with you, for you