
Maternal and child health – visit 4 - eight week visit

Summary

- This is your fourth key age and stage visit with a maternal and child health nurse in your local area.
 - Maternal and child health nurses work in partnership with families to care for babies and young children until they start school. The service is free for all Victorian families.
 - You will visit a maternal and child health nurse at 10 key ages and stages from birth to three and a half years.
 - Your nurse can help you with things like breastfeeding and feeding your child; sleep and settling, making sure your child is growing, learning and developing well; being a parent and looking after yourself.
-

What happens at my eight week maternal and child health visit?

This visit will focus on:

- safe sleeping
- **registering your baby's birth**
- feeding your baby (including breastfeeding and bottle feeding)
- how play helps learning and development
- **immunisations**
- your baby's safety
- hearing screen – the **Victorian Infant Hearing Screen Program (VIHSP)**. Check the newborn hearing screen section of your 'green book' to see if it has been completed.
- **family relationships and wellbeing.**

Remember, you and your nurse can talk about other issues or concerns if they arise.

Don't forget your 'green book'

When your baby was born, you should have received a copy of **My Health, Learning and Development – green book**. This book belongs to you and your baby and is full of information about early child development, and services and support.

Make sure you take your green book with you each time you see your nurse so you can jot down any issues, and record information on your baby's growth and development.

If you don't have a green book, let your nurse know.

What is my baby doing at this key age and stage?

At this age, your baby is constantly learning about the world around them. They will be showing more emotions and starting to communicate with you in new ways. They might be:

- smiling
- bringing their hands together
- making sounds like they are 'talking'
- looking at you when you talk to them
- copying your facial expressions.

What to tell your nurse

Please tell the nurse if your baby is:

- NOT making any sounds
- NOT beginning to smile
- NOT looking at you in the eyes.

Activity ideas for this key age and stage

Try some of these ideas to help your baby learn and develop:

- sing to them during feeds, bath time and when changing their nappy
- play with them when they are on their tummy on the floor
- take them for walks outside and chat with them
- smile at them
- cuddle and talk to them in a soothing voice.

Have you got your baby bundle?

If you are a first-time parent (after July 2019) and live in Victoria, you may be eligible to receive the Victorian Government's **baby bundle** which contains nursery essentials and key parenting information and resources to support the health, development and wellbeing of your baby.

Tell your maternal and child health nurse if you did not receive one.

Where to get help

- **Your local maternal and child health service**
- Your **GP (doctor)**
- **Your local council early childhood and family services**
- **Maternal and Child Health Line** Tel: **13 22 29** – available 24 hours a day for the cost of a local call throughout Victoria
- **Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)** Tel. **03 9419 3000**
- **Parentline** Tel. **13 22 89**
- **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)** Tel. **131 450** – available (24 hours, 7 days a week) for callers who speak other languages.
- **National Relay Service** (24 hours a day, every day) – Speak and listen Tel: **1300 555 727**, TTY Tel: **133 677**, SMS relay Tel: **0423 677 767**. **Captioned, internet and video relay calls are also available through this service.**

This page has been produced in consultation with and approved by:

Maternal and Child Health and Parenting

Content on this website is provided for information purposes only. Information about a therapy, service, product or treatment does not in any way endorse or support such therapy, service, product or treatment and is not intended to replace advice from your doctor or other registered health professional. The information and materials contained on this website are not intended to constitute a comprehensive guide concerning all aspects of the therapy, product or treatment described on the website. All users are urged to always seek advice from a registered health care professional for diagnosis and answers to their medical questions and to ascertain whether the particular therapy, service, product or treatment described on the website is suitable in their circumstances. The State of Victoria and the Department of Health & Human Services shall not bear any liability for reliance by any user on the materials contained on this website.

For the latest updates and more information, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Copyright © 1999/2020 State of Victoria. Reproduced from the Better Health Channel (www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) at no cost with permission of the Victorian Minister for Health. Unauthorised reproduction and other uses comprised in the copyright are prohibited without permission.