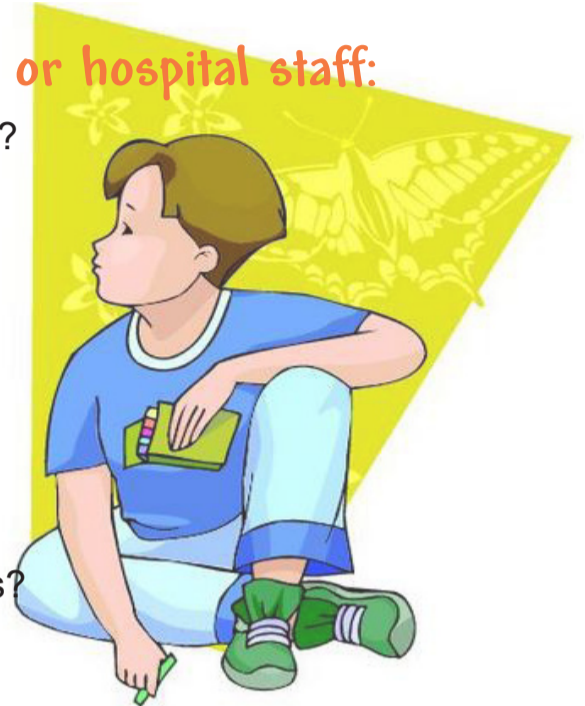


About Children in Hospital

Don't be afraid to ask questions.
An informed parent is a helpful parent.

Here are some of the questions you may wish to ask your doctor or hospital staff:

- How long will my child be in hospital? What are the plans for discharge and follow up?
- Who can I call if I need help at home?
- Are any pre-admission tours of the hospital/ward given?
- Are there any information booklets about the hospital?
- What are the visiting hours?
- Can brothers, sisters and other relatives and friends of my child visit?
- What to take to hospital?
- Can my child wear his/her own pyjamas? Can my child bring his/her own special toys?
(All personal belongings should be marked with your child's name).
- Are there any play facilities, play staff, hospital toys, books, etc?
- What education facilities are there for older children?
- How many children will be in the ward and what age range?
- Will he/she be in a cot or a bed? Will he/she be confined to a bed in the daytime?
- Are there rooming-in facilities/folding bed for a parent? Cost? Are meals provided for parents?
- May I stay overnight beside my child on a bed provided by the hospital?
May I bring my folding bed? Or sleep on a chair beside the bed?
- May I stay whilst pre-med is given? (This is the medication sometimes given to relax a child before going to theatre).
- May I accompany my child for the induction of anaesthesia and stay until he/she is asleep?
- Approximately how long will the operation last? May I be with my child when he/she awakes in the recovery room?
- What post-operative treatment will be needed?
- What time are doctors' ward rounds? Will the doctor be available for information other than at the ward round?
- What time are meals and snacks served? Where? Is there a choice of menu?
- What time is rest period? Bedtime?
- Where are the telephones, toilets, cafeteria, shops, parking etc?
- Are there child-minding facilities for brothers and sisters?



If you know what to expect then you can prepare your child.

If you would like more information on preparing children, young people and their families for hospital please contact AWCH.

Association for the Welfare of Child Health (AWCH)

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Email: awch@awch.com.au Web: www.awch.org.au