



Making Appointments

We contact you when it is time to make an appointment. We record your contact details when you are discharged. It is important that your contact details are current so we can reach you when your child is due for an assessment.

If you have any questions about the G&D Clinic or you have moved and would like to update your contact details or are concerned about your child's development please call the Clinic Coordinator:

Phone: (03) 8458 4750

Fax: (03) 8458 4714

Email: hwoods@mercy.com.au

Mercy Health is a Catholic provider of health, aged care and community services.

We believe in the sacredness and dignity of each person at every stage of life and are committed to providing compassionate care to all people, regardless of culture or religion. The professional, holistic care we give is guided by our values of compassion, hospitality and respect.



Mercy Health
Care first

Growth and Development Follow Up Clinic (G&D Clinic)

Mercy Hospital for Women



Mercy Health
Care first

Mercy Hospital for Women
163 Studley Road
Heidelberg Victoria 3084
Phone: (03) 8458 4444
Fax: (03) 8458 4777
mercyhealth.com.au

What to expect during your appointment

The child psychologist will use a series of fun games to evaluate your child's thinking and understanding, speaking and comprehension, hand and leg movement and coordination.

The paediatrician will ask you questions about your child's health and wellbeing and perform a medical examination.

The child psychologist and paediatrician:

- Can answer your questions about your child's development
- Can refer you to local support and specialist intervention services

Who do we see at the G&D Clinic and why?

The G&D Clinic offers developmental assessment for children:

- Who were born before 28 weeks
- Who weighed less than 1,000 grams at birth
- Who had significant neurological problems such as seizures or intraventricular haemorrhage
- Who were enrolled in a research follow up study while in the nursery

These children are at increased risk of experiencing developmental or learning difficulties throughout childhood. G&D Clinic appointments are made to monitor your child's progress and to help you and your chosen healthcare providers to identify potential problems as early as possible.

This service should be viewed as an addition to your regular checkups with your own chosen paediatrician or other healthcare providers.

Your child's first visit

At two years of age (or the corrected age if your child was born prematurely) you and your child will be offered an appointment with a child psychologist and paediatrician.

Further visits

These are arranged according to your child's needs. A pre-school assessment may be offered.

Research visits

You and your child may also be offered an appointment at the clinic because you enrolled in a research study during their time in our nursery. Each assessment will be specific to the particular research study, but generally this involves an appointment with the child psychologist and paediatrician. As a parent you may also be asked to complete questionnaires about your child's behaviour.

Partnerships

You will be advised to have regular checkups with a paediatrician throughout the first year of your child's life. Developing an ongoing relationship with a paediatrician who is familiar with your child's medical history can help to detect developmental or learning difficulties that may arise during childhood.

You and your chosen healthcare providers will receive separate letters from the paediatrician and child psychologist detailing the findings of your consultation. These assessments are broad and not all encompassing. Specific concerns require targeted consultation with your own healthcare provider.

