

Visiting Your Baby in the Special Care Nursery

You are the most important person in your new baby's life and as such we encourage you to visit your baby frequently. Quality time spent with your baby is important not only to assist with bonding but to their growth and development.

The Special Care Nursery staff is here, not only to meet the needs for your baby, but also to offer guidance and support to you and your family. We can assist you to feel comfortable providing care for your baby and to learn how to be involved with your baby's development. Although there may be difficult moments, the closeness and time you spend with your baby can be an important part of this special start. Please let us know how we can help you.

Handwashing

The most important way you can help minimize the spread of germs is to wash your hands. Wash your hands with soap and warm water; be sure to scrub between your fingers, your fingertips and fingernails, the back of your hands and wrists. You should scrub for at least 20 seconds, the time it takes you to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. Hand sanitizing must be done upon:

- Entering and exiting the hospital;
- Entering and existing any of the clinical areas and units;
- Entering and exiting your baby's bed space; and
- Before and after you touch your baby.

Who Can Visit Your Baby?

For the most up-to-date visiting guidelines please speak to your nurse.

When Are Visitors Not Allowed into the Special Care Nursery?

- A cold, or a runny nose;
- A cold sore, or feel a cold sore is starting;
- Diarrhea (loose or watery bowel movements);
- Vomiting (throwing up);
- Fever; or
- Have been in contact with any communicable diseases (e.g. chicken pox, measles, mumps) in the last three weeks prior to their visit.

Your Infant's Safety

Unattended visitors need to be on the visitors list to be admitted to the Special Care Nursery. Unattended visitors may be asked to show photo ID.

Security systems have been installed to help stop abductions: door locks, cameras and an electronic infant/child protection system.

No food or drink is allowed at the bedside. Water may be brought to the bedside in closed containers.

Calling the Nursery

If you have questions about visiting and caring for your baby, please contact the department. Please feel free to call the Nursery at any time at 519-464-4400 Ext. 8261. You must provide the secure ID# that is on your baby band to allow sharing of information. Please do not give this number out to others as it helps us maintain confidentiality for you and your baby. Anyone else asking about your baby will be directed to contact you.

Privacy/Confidentiality

Your privacy and that of other families in our nursery is very important to us. Therefore, we respectfully ask for your assistance in not asking questions about other babies in the nursery.