

Visitors' car parks are also illustrated on the plan, and it would be helpful if you would park in these areas only, in order to avoid congestion on the hospital roadways.

#### **On Admission :**

1. When you bring your daughter to hospital, let her have with her her favourite possession (unless it is alive).
2. Please mention any details of your daughter's habits or routine to the Nurse who meets you. This is especially important to younger children, many of whom have their own special words which they use in connection with such matters as pottie training and other essential requirements.
3. Please bring with you, soap, flannel, toothbrush and paste, brush and comb, and, if possible, dressing gown and slippers.

#### **Visiting Arrangements :**

There are no set daily visiting hours for the Children's Ward, and *except on Thursday afternoon from 2—5 p.m.*, parents may, at the discretion of the Doctor or Ward Sister, visit their children at any time of the day.

Parents are asked to note, however, that there may be times when the Doctor or Ward Sister may feel that it would be unwise for their child to have visitors on a particular day or time, or that on medical grounds the whole ward, or a part of it, should be free of visitors for a period. Such measures are not used unless absolutely necessary, but the success of the arrangements for unrestricted visiting of children depends upon mutual co-operation of this kind between parents and the medical and nursing staff.

The Committee regret that children under 14 years cannot be allowed to visit the Children's Ward, other than in very exceptional circumstances, and then only by arrangement with the Ward Sister.

#### **Entrances for Visitors :**

When you come to visit your daughter would you please use the entrance marked 'A' on the plan.

#### **Food :**

If you wish to bring sweets, fruit or food, please ask Sister or Staff Nurse first. Diet is often an important part of the treatment and you may even delay recovery by not asking and accepting the advice of the Nursing Staff in this matter. It is extremely important that you adhere strictly to the advice given.

#### **Illness :**

If you have a cold or diarrhoea, or any illness, or if anyone is ill in your family, please speak to Sister or her Deputy before you visit.

#### **Social Services :**

The Medical Social Worker (formerly known as the Almoner) is available to help you regarding personal problems or difficulties, and if you wish to see her, please inform the Ward Sister. This service is available throughout the time your daughter is under the care of the hospital.

#### **Mail :**

Children like to receive picture postcards or letters, and it would be helpful if you would write frequently to your daughter particularly if you are unable to visit.

#### **Telephone :**

It would be helpful if you could leave a telephone number with the Ward Sister, either your own, or, if you are not on the telephone, that of a friend who lives nearby and who is willing to take messages for you.

#### **Your daughter's progress :**

The Ward Sister or Staff Nurse will be glad to give you as much information as possible about your daughter's progress, but you should appreciate that some tests require days of work and observation before results are known, and many treatments need to be carried out for long periods before any improvement is obvious.

#### **Coming Home :**

Home coming day will be decided upon by the Medical Staff, and Sister or Staff Nurse will make the necessary arrangements with you. It is regretted that sometimes notice of home coming may be unavoidably short. Some children need to be seen by the hospital medical staff from time to time after they are discharged from hospital and, if this applies to your daughter, Sister will give you an approximate idea of when to expect an out-patient appointment.

#### **At home again :**

It is quite common for young children to be upset when they first come home from hospital and they demand a great deal of attention. If you understand that this is quite usual and make allowances for it, it will soon pass. Very shortly your daughter will settle into her normal routine and her stay in hospital will, we trust, gradually become a not wholly unpleasant memory.

#### **Suggestions for improving the Service :**

It is the constant aim of the Management Committee and the staff, to continue to improve the services provided at the hospital and constructive suggestions for improvements will be welcomed and should be addressed to :—

The Administrative Officer,  
General Hospital,  
Rothwell Road,  
Kettering.

