



The **Real Nappy** Handbook

for parents and carers

'Guiding you through your real nappy years'



Acknowledgements:

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Real Nappy Models:

Special thanks to all the Buckinghamshire real nappy babies, children and parents who gave their time and enthusiasm to help model all the nappies featured in this guide.

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What is



Buckinghamshire

Real Nappy Initiative?

Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Initiative is an initiative within the Recycle For Buckinghamshire campaign co-ordinated by the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire.

The Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire is made up of all the district and county councils in Buckinghamshire: Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Chiltern District Council, South Buckinghamshire District Council and Wycombe District Council.

PLEASE NOTE:

The information, advice and guidance in this handbook is intended to guide parents and carers during their child's real nappy years to help make real nappy usage enjoyable and sustainable. References to medical conditions and explanations are for reference only and should not be treated as a substitute for qualified medical advice from your doctor or other qualified medical practitioner. The reader is advised to consult a doctor or their health care professional regarding all aspects of individual health care for their child/ren.

The information presented in this handbook is accurate and current to the best of the author's knowledge. Due to the constantly evolving nature of this subject matter the information is subject to change. However, the authors, Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Initiative and the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire, make no guarantee, and assume no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes in details given which have been presented in good faith.

Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Initiative contact details are:

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Website: www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk



REAL NAPPY LIBRARY KITS EXPLAINED



Korina Stephens - Lollipop Nappy Advisor

Contents:

- 1 Real Nappy Library Kits
- 2 Real Nappy Advisers
- 3 How to I arrange to borrow a library kit?
- 4 Where to purchase Real Nappies after borrowing a library kit
- 5 Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Exchange
- 6 Non-Endorsement Statement of Real Nappy Services and Suppliers



Library kits are ideal for those who want to go a step further than just thinking about using real and want to give real nappies a try before committing fully.

They are also perfect for established real nappy parents who want to try the next size up or the latest designs.

This fact file tells you what they are and how to get hold of them.

1. Real Nappy Library Kits

In Buckinghamshire, parents, grandparents, foster carers and childminders can access Real Nappy Library Kits for free. Library kits contain a selection of real nappies + accessories that cover the 4 basic nappy systems available. They contain everything you will need during your loan. The kits can be borrowed for up to 4 weeks at a time (depending on negotiation and availability). You can try out the nappies in your own home environment: fitting them on your child/ren, washing and drying them to experience the full cycle of usage. This is the best way to see how they work and will enable you to decide whether real nappies will suit your personal situation.

2. Real Nappy Advisers

The library kits are held and maintained by Real Nappy Advisers who are located in and around Bucks. Real Nappy Advisers are either:

- Parents who have used real nappies on their children and have set-up their own nappy company or work on behalf of a national real nappy supplier. They provide support, advice and sell nappies/accessories directly to local customers. Advisers provide their own real nappy library kits to lend out for a small weekly charge. This charge covers administration and preparation of the kits before and after your loan along with consumable items that you will use during your loan. They also ask for a 'holding, returnable deposit' which is taken prior to your loan. This is held as security against the safe and clean return of the library kit.

- OR they are volunteer real nappy parents who belong to the support group BARNs (Bucks Area Reusable Nappy Support). BARNs are a voluntary group who primarily provide real nappy library kits for families to borrow. The kits are available for free loan for up to 4 weeks at a time, advice and support is given before and during the loan. Real nappies and accessories can also be purchased from an established real nappy supplier via BARNs. Ongoing support is also given to Bucks residents during the nappy years. BARNs only ask for a 'holding, returnable deposit', with no weekly charge but they do ask for a questionnaire to be completed on return of the kit.
- A Laundry Real Nappy Adviser provided by a Nappy Laundry Service. If you would like to try out a laundry service instead of washing your own nappies at home, a Laundry Real Nappy Adviser can give you a free demonstration of their nappies in your own home. Some laundries provide a week's free trial by negotiation with no obligation to continue at the end of the week. Please contact the laundry direct to arrange.

3. How do I arrange to borrow a Library Kit?

PLEASE NOTE: You will be expected to travel to collect/return the kits directly to the adviser. However this is negotiable if traveling is difficult for you, please do not hesitate to speak directly to your local nappy adviser if this is an issue.

1. Select a Real Nappy Adviser from the contact list provided in the free Nappy Information Pack or visit www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk for the updated list. Call or email your chosen adviser. Please note that as advisers are parents too, they may not return your call immediately so please be patient!
2. On your collection of the kit, a Real Nappy Adviser will spend approx. 1 hour showing you the different types of nappies and how to launder them. You will also go through an inventory of items that you will be borrowing and sign on receipt of the kit, so please ensure that you allow time for this to happen.
3. A 'holding, returnable deposit' will also be taken as security against the safe return of the library kit and a small weekly fee will be charged (depending on adviser and how many weeks you require) to cover consumables (contact Adviser for full details). The loan of the library kit is free.
4. During the loan period, you will be expected to home launder as advised. Please return the kit in a clean condition. Any missing items will be charged against the holding deposit, so please ensure that all items on your inventory are present prior to return. Any soiled nappies or wraps that are returned at the end of the loan will either be charged against your deposit or you will be given a short time to take them home to re-wash. Your adviser can give you lots of handy tips to return the nappies to a pristine condition!!
5. Please allow at least 30 minutes on returning the kit to your adviser as the kit will be checked against your inventory and, if all is present, your holding deposit will be returned. You can also use this time to discuss your experience!

4. Where to purchase Real Nappies after borrowing a Library Kit

If you would like to switch to real nappies after borrowing a library kit, you are not under any obligation to purchase nappies directly from the nappy adviser just because you have borrowed a library kit from them. However you always have the option to if you liked the service they offered you! The Nappy Information Pack lists all the local, national and internet real nappy suppliers so you can 'shop around' and source the nappies yourself.

The advantages of purchasing direct from your local Real Nappy Adviser are that:

- They are local to you, so this makes it easier to view, select and check the fit of the nappies before you buy. They are also nearby for picking up the smaller consumables i.e. liners, boosters, washable wipes, alternative disposable nappies etc. saving you money on postage and packaging.
- They can advise you on exactly what you need (saving expensive mistakes), put through your order and arrange delivery of your nappies to save you time.

For the contact details of real nappy suppliers please see the sheet: 'Where to See, borrow a library kit, Purchase or Launder Real Nappies in Bucks'

This can be found in the Nappy Information Pack and is also available on the website at: www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk



5. Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Exchange

If you would like to purchase 2nd hand nappies and accessories, we operate a free service called Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Exchange. This enables local parents to exchange/sell or donate their nappies and accessories to interested families.

Visit www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk to view the updated list of items on the exchange or to download an Exchanger's form if you have items to sell or donate.

6. Non-Endorsement Statement of Real Nappy Services and Suppliers

The Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire (AVDC, BCC, CDC, SBDC, WDC) value the impact that real nappy library kits have at encouraging residents to make the switch to real.

Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Initiative also actively supports new business initiatives in our county so is happy to work directly with Real Nappy Advisers, laundry services and national suppliers. We advertise all real nappy supplier contact details in the free Nappy Information Pack so that you can have all the local and national contacts in one accessible place.

PLEASE NOTE:

Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Initiative doesn't endorse one service over and above another.



Example of a Real Nappy Library Kit

© Written by Janice O'Flynn-Mundin, Buckinghamshire Real Nappy Initiative Updated February 2008

For a free Nappy Information Pack or additional Fact Files call: 01296 382539 or email: realnappy@buckscc.gov.uk or visit www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk to download.