

Three babies are born with a cleft every day in the UK



Learn more
and find
support



What is a cleft?

A cleft happens when the parts of a baby's face don't fully come together in the womb. Babies can be born with a **cleft lip** (one or two gaps in the upper lip), a **cleft palate** (a gap in the roof of the mouth), or both a **cleft lip and palate**.

Why does it happen?

A cleft is usually caused by a complicated mix of genetic and environmental factors. It's no-one's 'fault' and can happen in the best-planned pregnancies.

How is it treated?

One or more surgeries can close the gap left by a cleft, but it can have a lifelong impact on speech, hearing, teeth, breathing and more. The treatment pathway is 20+ years long and can involve multiple surgeries into adulthood.

Find support

For a lifetime with cleft, CLAPA is with you. Visit **CLAPA.com** to find helpful information, support services, and a welcoming community to support you through your entire journey.

The UK's charity for everyone affected by cleft



**For a lifetime with cleft,
CLAPA is with you**



Supplying special bottles and teats for your baby.



Keeping up to date with the latest cleft research.



Providing online support groups for parents and adults.



Hosting free online events for the whole cleft community.



Offering one-to-one support from trained parent and adult volunteers.



Donate to CLAPA, scan the QR or visit CLAPA.com/Donate

