

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update March 2026

Included this month: Spring Skills Bootcamps, maternity vaccinations, Employment Rights Act 2025

Spring Skills Bootcamps

Among the skills 'camps' there are Early Years and Childcare or Playwork, for people looking to start, develop or change their career. Participants will be able to access a funded 3-week course that provides training and skills to prepare them for a role in an early years and childcare or wraparound care setting, or to become a childminder.



The next bootcamps are starting on **9 March 2026 in various locations**. For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/skillsbootcamp/allskillsbootcamps>



Maternity Vaccinations

Pregnant women are eligible for up to three, free NHS vaccines during their pregnancy, depending on the time of year. These are:

- The RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine offered around mid-pregnancy scan (usually 20 weeks) and ideally before 32 weeks.
- The pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine offered from 28 weeks and around the 28-week antenatal appointment.
- The flu vaccine offered during the flu season at any point in pregnancy.

Getting vaccinated during pregnancy is one of the best ways to protect pregnant women and their babies from serious illness.

Speak to your doctor for more information or visit the [NHS website](#).

Employment Rights Act 2025 – changes from 6 April 2026

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Paternity leave and ordinary parental leave

- paternity leave will become a 'day one right', allowing someone to give notice of leave from the first day of employment – currently someone must have worked for their employer for 26 weeks
- ordinary parental leave, or unpaid parental leave, will also become a day one right – currently someone must have worked for their employer for 1 year to be eligible
- the restriction on taking paternity leave after shared parental leave will be removed
- eligible fathers and partners will be able to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid bereaved partner's paternity leave if the mother or primary adopter dies – leave must be taken within 52 weeks of the child's birth (including surrogacy), adoption placement, or entry to Great Britain for overseas adoptions

Sick pay

- statutory sick pay (SSP) will be paid from the first day of illness, instead of the fourth day
- the lower earnings limit will be removed – currently, workers must earn a minimum amount to be eligible for statutory sick pay

Further details and other future changes [Employment Rights Act 2025 - Acas](#)