Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update – November 2026



Starting School in September 2027

On Sunday 1 November 2026, applications open for parents to apply for their child to start school in September 2027. The **closing date for applications is 15 January 2027**. Parents can apply online from 1 November via the Hampshire County Council website: www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions.

Full information about the application process can be found at: www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearR. Parents visiting the website will also find guidance on how to choose a school, what to do if they are moving house, starting school options including delayed admission for summer born children, and lots of other useful information.

If parents require further information or need help with their application, they can contact the Admissions Team by emailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk or calling 0300 555 1377 (between 8:30am and 2pm).

Hampshire Skills Bootcamps



Join a Skills Bootcamp for Hampshire residents. Among the 'camps' there is an Early Years one, for people looking to start or change their career. Participants will be able to access a funded course to provide training and skills to prepare them for a role in either an Early Years or childcare setting, or to become a childminder. The next bootcamp is starting from **2 November** in **Basingstoke.**
For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps, please contact Itchen College on 02380 435636 or email courses@itchen.ac.uk. https://www.itchen.ac.uk/adult-learning/our-courses/adult-learning-courses/skills-bootcamps-in-early-years/

Funded childcare hours for children of working parents - apply in plenty of time



If you are an eligible working parent, you can apply for:

✓ **Up to 30 hours childcare** per week over 38 weeks of the year, if you have a **child between 9 months old and 4 years old**. [Your child must be at least 9 months old on or before 31 December.]

Apply now to get your funded childcare code to start in **January 2027**. If you plan to return to work from parental leave or start a new job by the **end of January**, you can also apply for a childcare code.
For further information visit: https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working

If you are not working, speak to your childcare provider about funded 15 hours childcare for your 2-, 3- or 4-year-old: https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/

Care for the Family – 'Going the Distance' event

Care for the Family provides a wide range of support in three key areas of family life – marriage, parenting and bereavement.
Care for the Family's marriage event, *Going the Distance*, will be touring next year. Whether newly married or have been together for years, discover practical ways to strengthen connection, navigate challenges as a team, and be intentional about building a relationship that thrives through every season of life.