

Early years education for children in Hampshire

Before starting school children benefit from attending a nursery, pre-school or childminder to receive early years education. This will help children develop friendships and prepare for school life.

Early Years Education

Every pre-school child (3 or 4 year old) in Hampshire is entitled to receive up to **570** hours of **free** early years education from the term after their third birthday. This can be up to 10 hours in one day or 15 hours over two days or more; provided by an approved nursery, pre-school or childminder. These hours can be taken during the school term or 'stretched' across the whole year to include holiday periods. The education can also be given by two providers as long as your child's free hours do not exceed 570 in a year.

Similar to schools some families may be eligible for the **Early Years Pupil Premium** which is given to nurseries, pre-schools and childminders to improve the quality and support provided to children to achieve the best early years education outcomes.

To apply for both the Early Years Education and Early Years Pupil Premium funding parents or guardians need to contact the nursery, pre-school or childminder that their child attends or will attend.

Your child's proof of age will be required as well as completing application forms.

Two Year Olds

Children who are two years old may be able to receive up to **570** hours of **free** early years education from the term after their second birthday.

For your child to be eligible your family will need to meet criteria based on family income and any welfare payments you receive; or whether your child has been in local authority care/adoption or has a special educational need or disability.

To check the criteria and apply online visit: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/eye/2-year-old-offer-2>.



Further Information

In the first instance speak to your health visitor, nursery, pre-school or childminder. The Family Information Service can also provide information through their helpline **0300 555 1384** or visit the website <http://www.hants.gov.uk/eye>.

Word count: 335