

Early Years and Childcare

Stakeholders briefing sheet no. 8 (April 2020)

Childcare Choices

30 Hours Childcare and Tax-Free Childcare

With the current COVID-19 restrictions only Key Worker parents or parents/ guardians of vulnerable children as defined by the Department for Education (DfE), can access Ofsted registered childcare and receive help with costs.

The deadline for new 30 Hours Childcare and Tax-Free Childcare applications, to start in the autumn term, is the **31 August**.

Parents applying for help with childcare funding after this date will not be able to receive this until January 2021.

The DfE have updated their 30 hours '[Check you're eligible](#)' page on GOV.UK to include a 'When best to apply' table, based on when a child turns 3.

Parents who are already in receipt of 30 Hours or Tax-Free Childcare must also ensure that they reconfirm their eligibility to HMRC when requested to.

To help decide what childcare scheme is best for their circumstances, parents can use the [Childcare Calculator](#).

Contact info

30 Hours Childcare/ Tax-Free Childcare helpline:
Childcare Service Helpline
0300 123 4097
tax-free.childcare@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Help with finding childcare?

Key worker parents, or those responsible for a vulnerable child can find childcare service using the *Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub* directory.
<https://fish.hants.gov.uk>

Welcome to the Family Information and Services Hub
including Hampshire Local Offer and Hampshire Gateway

Here you will find information about what is going on in your area, details on how to access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and the advice and support that is available.

"What's new"

Department for Education campaign, 'Young Little Miss' - aims to support children's learning at home, or as part of everyday activities like catching the bus or doing the shopping. Hampshire Libraries also offer some great groups and activities for families to access.

Hampshire's Family Information and Services Hub and Hampshire Local Offer info leaflet. For a downloadable version contact us.

Browse advice, information and local services by category

				
Childcare and Early Years Education	Family Support	Activities, Leisure and Play	Young People	Employment, Training and Learning

The childcare service records listed continue to be updated to show availability.

If further help is needed in finding childcare then parents or family practitioners can complete the online [Childcare Request Form](#) or email [Services for Young Children](#).

Update regarding 2-Year-Old Funding

Key Worker parents or parents/ guardians of vulnerable children as defined by the DfE, may apply for 2-Year-Old funding if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Parents residing in Hampshire can apply for the 2-Year-Old entitlement [here](#).

During COVID-19 the Government are **temporarily extending** eligibility criteria for the 2-year-old entitlement to include children assessed as being vulnerable and meeting the definition in Section 17 of the Children Act (1989) and who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

This is to support the children's safety and wellbeing whilst restrictions are in place. Children who are British born that are entitled to be in the country yet are not receiving support by virtue of their parents' immigration status (which triggers the NRPF), are eligible.

If you know of any families who could be eligible for the 2-year-old entitlement please email [Services for Young Children](#).



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Online safety reminder during COVID-19



[Andrea Piacquadio – pexels.com]

The Government's has released guidance for staying safe online:

www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online

This sets out a four-point plan of action that parents and carers can implement.

Helping children and young people to stay safe while online is a perpetual challenge for parents and carers and even more so when the amount of time spent online increases. Exposure to cyberbullying, disinformation and grooming is greater with children and young people using the internet, unsupervised, for both education and entertainment while schools are closed.

One of the most effective methods of keeping young people safe online is to raise awareness.

This can be done by having conversations about what online activities the children and young people are engaging

in and the safeguards they are taking.

The national guidance recommends reviewing security and safety settings, checking facts and guarding against disinformation, being vigilant against fraud and scams, and managing the amount of time spent online.

Online safety guidance, advice and resources are also available from Hampshire County Council for parents, carers, young people and professionals within schools:

www.hants.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren/onlinesafetyguide



Parents can access tips and activities from www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk.

Where pre-school children are at home, there is further advice on [helping 2 to 4 year olds learn at home](#).

Organisations are encouraged to support the campaign, share content on social media and link to the website from their sites, making it easier for parents to get the latest advice.



Services for Young Children have also put together ideas for supporting young children with learning and development at home. See [Latest News](#) for details.



Keeping families healthy is also important during this unprecedented time. Visit the [Hampshire Health in Education](#) website for information and resources.

This includes a book written by Southampton Children's Hospital about COVID-19 to help explain it to young children.



If you no longer want to receive this briefing, please email:

alice.warr@hants.gov.uk