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**Easy
Read**

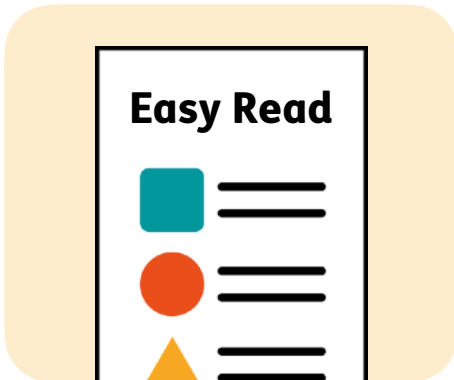
 **BEST**
 **START**
 **IN LIFE**



Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk/beststartinlife

Easy Read

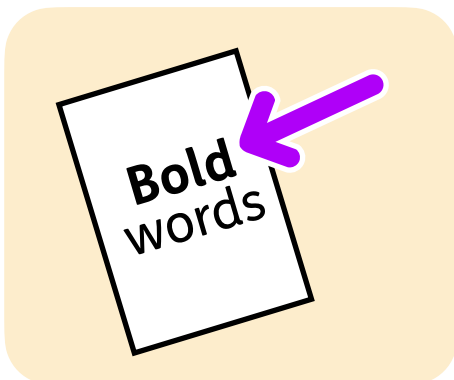


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this booklet

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About this booklet



We are Hampshire County Council.



We want every child in Hampshire to have a healthy, safe and happy start to their life.



We want health, care and education services to work together to support children and their families from pregnancy to age 5.



We have written a plan to make this happen over the next 3 years.

This booklet will tell you about our plan called the **Best Start in Life Plan**.

What families need



We know that from pregnancy to age 5 is an important part of a child's life.



To help us write our plan, we asked families what they need during their child's first years.

They told us they need:



- Good support in the first days and weeks after bringing their baby home.



- Local activities where families can be active, eat healthy food and have fun.

Families also told us they need:



- Better support for children with additional needs, like disabilities.



- Online support that fits around busy family life.



- Clear information about what services are available.



- Help to connect with new services in a friendly way.

Families also told us they need:



- To see the same doctors, nurses and other professionals each time.



- More support for children to learn to talk, read and write.

Our commitments



Our **commitments** are the things we promise to do to help every child have the best start in life.

Across all of the services that work to support children and families, we promise to:



- Think about what real families need when we make decisions.



- Make sure we are being fair to everyone.



- Help families and children who need support quickly, before their issues get worse.

We also promise to:



- Include families when we plan services for them.



- Work together to get better results for everyone.



- Help families to be more confident and get the skills they need.



- Look at what is needed in each local area, so that we can provide the right support.

Our priorities



Priorities are the most important things that should be done first.

These are our priorities for the next 3 years. We want to:



- Support strong relationships between parents and their children.



- Improve support for families online and in local areas.



- Bring services together to make it easier for families to get the support they need.

We also want to:



- Improve education and support to help young children learn and grow.



- Support families to get free childcare.



- Provide more local support for families who need extra help.

Best Start Family Hubs



Best Start Family Hubs are places where families can go to get support from different services.

Families can use the hubs to get help with things like:



- Pregnancy and babies.



- Helping your child learn and grow.



- Information about **Stay and Play**.

Stay and Play are sessions where families and children can play together.

Families can also use the hubs to get help with things like:



- Advice about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, called **SEND** for short.

Children with SEND need extra support to learn and grow.



- Workshops for parents to learn new skills.



- Information about other services if you need more support.



- Online information you can use at home.



The Best Start Family Hubs are for all families with children of any age.



The government has said that every council should have a Best Start Family Hub by April 2026.



Hampshire's Best Start Family Hubs will work with local NHS services to provide better support for families.



You can find your nearest Best Start Family Hub on this website: www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/beststartfamilyhubs

What we are already doing



There are a lot of services already working with families in Hampshire.



These services are helping people in the local area with learning for young children and improving health.



You can find out more about these services on the website Family Information and Services Hub, called FISH for short:

www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/family-information-and-services-hub-fish

Checking the plan is working

We will keep checking that our plan is working by:



- Speaking and listening to families.



- Looking at how services are being used to support families.



- Making sure everyone can get and use the services they need.



- Checking that children are growing up to have good health and education.

In the future

We want to carry on giving children the best start in life now and in the future by:



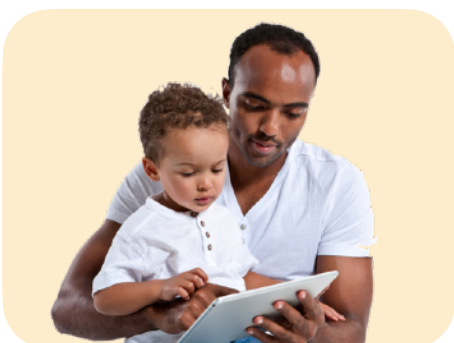
- Making the most of the services and local groups we have now.



- Listening to families to keep making services better.



- Giving training to staff in services that support families, to help them do their jobs well.



- Using new ideas and technology to improve services and make them easier to use.

Find out more



You can find out more about the Best Start in Life Plan on our website:

[www.hants.gov.uk/
socialcareandhealth/
childrenandfamilies/
beststartinlife/
hampshirebeststartplan](http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/beststartinlife/hampshirebeststartplan)



You can find out about services that can support you and your family on this website:

[www.connecttosupporthampshire.
org.uk/family-information-and-
services-hub-fish](http://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/family-information-and-services-hub-fish)



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think: [www.easy-read-
online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-
survey](http://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey)

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