Early Years and Childcare

Stakeholders briefing sheet no. 34 (September 2026)

Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds



Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds is early years education / childcare funding for families who meet socio-economic and other eligibility criteria.

Parents should apply for this childcare funding by visiting Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds Funding – eligibility and how to apply | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council

If eligible, their child is guaranteed up to 570 funded hours until after they turn 3, even if the family circumstances change.

Some of these families may also be eligible for funded hours through the **working families'** entitlement. Funded childcare for working families | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council

Though it may seem straight forward for these parents to apply for the funded hours under the working families' scheme; if the parents do not re-confirm their entitlement or the family circumstances change, then the funded hours could be lost.

Autumn Skills Bootcamps

Among the Hampshire skills bootcamps there is an Early Years and Childcare one, for people looking to start, develop or change their career.

Participants will be able to access a funded 3/4-week course that provides training and skills to prepare them for a role in early years or school-age childcare; or start to become a childminder.

For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps visit: Early Years | Prosperity Hampshire



Becoming a registered childminder in Hampshire

The next online information session is taking place on Tuesday 6 October 2026. For further details visit: Becoming a registered childminder in Hampshire | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council

Sign up here for the session: Autumn 2026 'Becoming a Registered Hampshire Childminder' info session Tickets, Tuesday 6 October • 7 PM - 9 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite

Starting School in September 2027

Online applications open on **1 November** for parents to apply for their child (born between 01 September 2022 – 31 August 2023) to start school in September 2027.

The closing date for applications is **15 January 2027**.



Parents will be able to apply online via the Hampshire County Council website: www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions.

On the website there is guidance on how to choose a school, what to do if they are moving house, starting school options including decelerated admission for summer born children, and other useful information: www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearR.

For further information or help with an application contact the Admissions Team by e-mail admissions.team@hants.gov.uk or call 0300 555 1377 (between 8.30am and 2pm).

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Preparing for School

Check out the Best Start in Life website for information to help parents prepare their child for school: [Preparing for school - Best Start in Life]

Toilet training made easy: A parent's step-by-step-guide

Toilet training is an important milestone for children before they start school.
It helps them build confidence, make friends, and focus on learning without the worry of potential accidents.
Most schools recommend that children are toilet-trained before starting reception, as it helps them develop key skills language to express needs.
This short animated video goes through each step of the toilet training journey, from introducing the idea to building routines to celebrating progress.



[Toilet training made easy: A parent's step-by-step-guide - YouTube]

Protect against flu

Most children who are eligible for a flu vaccine can have the nasal spray. Children with health conditions can be offered the injected flu vaccine instead.



Parents and carers need to return consent forms so that children can get the nasal spray vaccine when it is offered in schools. However, if a child has missed the vaccine at school, the local school immunisation team can help parents access a vaccine for their children.

Further details:

- ‘Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school’
- Children's flu vaccine

Adult Tailored Learning

Hampshire County Council offers a three-week employability programme, completely **free of charge**, to help people to apply for a job in the childcare and school sector.
Attendees will find out about the skills, values and attitudes required to work with children and young people.
For further details visit: Course: Adult Skills Offer | Hampshire PALL

The Priority Services Register – support for families

The PSR - The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free UK-wide service that provides additional advice and support for eligible households, including extra assistance and communications during interruptions to electricity, gas or water supplies.

Parents and carers with children under five can register, as can people who are reliant on medical equipment, have a disability, chronic illness, a mental health condition, or other circumstances that mean they may need extra support.

If anyone in a household meets the vulnerability criteria, even on a temporary basis, they may be eligible to join the PSR.

Further information and additional eligibility criteria are available on their website:

The PSR - The Priority Services Register (PSR)

Have an early years or childcare related topic that you would like further information about? Complete a Services for Young Children General Enquiry Form.

If you no longer want to receive this briefing, please email: alice.warr@hants.gov.uk

Working in childcare and early years | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk)