

Services for Young Children

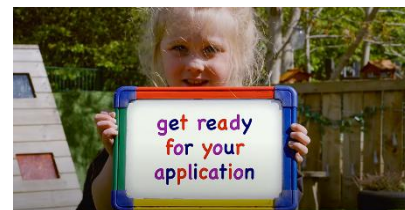
Parents/ Carers Update March 2025

Included this month: Funded childcare for children of working parents, Easter Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Early Years Skills Bootcamp, Home-Start, Neonatal Leave and Pay

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

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

- ✓ **15 hours childcare** per week over 38 weeks of the year, if you have a **child between 9 months old and 3 years old**. [Your child must be at least 9 months old on or before 31 March.]
- ✓ **30 hours childcare** per week over 38 weeks of the year, if you have a **child aged 3 or 4 years old**.



Apply now to get your funded childcare code to start in April 2025.

If you plan to return to work from parental leave or start a new job by the **end of April**, you can also apply now for a childcare code. You will then receive a letter in the post within 1 to 2 weeks.

For further information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

Connect4communities – Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Easter holiday schemes with free activities and meals for thousands of children from families on low incomes across Hampshire are being supported from the [Connect4communities](#) programme.



Parents and carers can find out what is on offer locally through the Family Information and Services Hub directory from **10 March**:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/advice.page?id=XRITDNF8hhM>

Skills Bootcamps are marching their way to you!



Join a Skills Bootcamp for Hampshire residents.

Among the 'camps' there is an Early Years one, for people looking to start, develop or change their career.

Participants will be able to access a funded 3-week course that provides 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 happening in **Gosport** starting on **14 March 2025**.

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/>

Home-Start

Being a parent has never been easy. It can be lonely, frustrating, heart breaking and over-whelming. All parents struggle at one time or another. Home-Start's expert staff and trained volunteers work alongside families to give non-judgmental, compassionate and confidential support. They help you regain confidence and be the parent you want to be.



For details of their services, visit [Home-Start UK](#)

Neonatal Leave and Pay

Parents who have a baby in [neonatal care](#) will be entitled to additional time off as a day one right. [This new right](#) will apply to babies **born on or after 6th April 2025**.



The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act, effective from 6th April 2025, will support parents of babies who are in neonatal care for over a week within **28 days of birth**. Eligible employees can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave in addition to other family leave entitlements such as maternity and paternity leave.

This applies to those caring for babies receiving neonatal care, and leave can be taken both during and after the baby's hospital stay. Neonatal Care Leave is a day-one right, ensuring greater support for parents during critical early stages.