

# Services for Young Children

## Parents/ Carers Update February 2025

Included this month: Change to Child Benefit, Early Years Skills Bootcamps, Hampshire Happy Talkers, Ask About Autism

### Change to Child Benefit



The amount people can earn before they start paying the [High Income Child Benefit Charge](#) increased to £60,000. For parents and carers who have not yet claimed Child Benefit, or who opted out of payments and have income between £60,000 and £80,000, it can now be financially worth their while to claim. The easiest way to do this is on the [HMRC app](#) or [online](#).

### 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 bootcamps are happening in **Totton**, starting on **24 February 2025** and **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](mailto:courses@itchen.ac.uk).

<https://www.itchen.ac.uk/adult-learning/our-courses/adult-learning-courses/skills-bootcamps-in-early-years/>

### Hampshire Happy Talkers - Speech, Language and Communication Pathway

Services for Young Children, Hampshire County Council have been working with different services across Hampshire to create an online "one stop shop" where families can find out what support is available for children's speech, language and communication needs across Hampshire. *Hampshire Happy Talkers* specifically focuses on support available for 0–5-year-olds. Information includes guidance on what is available from specialist services such as the NHS, as well as services such as Health visitors, Barnardos, Library Service etc.



Check out <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/advice.page?id=IN0MsqnBgmC>

### Ask About Autism



Ask About Autism is a service to support families across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who feel that their child or young person may be displaying autistic traits, which may lead to diagnosis and beyond.

The service provides free workshops, network groups and signposting appointments for support. For further details:

<https://www.braain.co.uk/blog/launching-ask-about-autism>