

# Services for Young Children

## Parents/ Carers Update May 2024

Included this month: Early Years Skills Bootcamps, Carer's Leave Act, warm weather ticks and viruses, benefit increases

### SKILLS FOR LIFE

#### SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

### Skills Bootcamps are marching their way to you!

Hampshire County Council have been awarded funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver several sector-based Skills Bootcamps for Hampshire residents. Among the 'camps' is an Early Years one, for people looking to start, or change, their career. Participants will be able to access a funded course to provide training and skills to prepare them for a role in either an early years or childcare setting, or to become a childminder.

The first bootcamp is happening in Winchester, starting on the **3 June**. 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.hants.gov.uk/business/skillsbootcamp>

### Carer's Leave Act

The Carer's Leave Act came into force on 6 April. This gives a new entitlement to a week of unpaid leave for unpaid carers who are caring for a dependant with a long-term care need. This will enable carers to better balance their caring and work responsibilities, supporting them to remain in employment.

More information and guidance about carers leave can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



### Warmer weather... watch out, ticks are about!

Always check your body for any signs of ticks at the end of a day in the countryside, and if you do find any ticks feeding, remove the tick promptly with tweezers, clean the bite site with an antiseptic wipe and watch for any symptoms of Lyme disease, remembering to consult your GP if you feel unwell. The infection can be serious if not treated.

The [three-minute video](#) will give you details on how to remove the tick and things to look out for. NHS [Lyme disease](#) information.

Also, don't forget to check your child's **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)** vaccine status: [NHS website](#). These viruses can thrive more in the warmer weather.

### Benefit increases: Universal Credit and other working age benefits

From Monday 8 April 2024, those on Universal Credit will also see a 6.7 percent increase. The 6.7 percent rise extends to other DWP benefits, such as Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance, among others. Local Housing Allowance rates are being increased too.

There will be an additional £470 for the 5.5 million households on Universal Credit with over 19 million families across Britain benefiting from uprating, including working parents who can now receive up to £20,800 a year in childcare support. Find a full list of rising benefits by visiting [Benefit and pension rates 2024 to 2025](#).

