

# Services for Young Children

## Parents/ Carers Update August 2023

**Included this month:** Ask About Autism/Future in Mind, Childcare and Schools sector work-based academy programme, 30 Hours Childcare/Tax-Free Childcare, school lunches and support

### Ask About Autism and Future in Mind

*Ask About Autism* is a service that has been supporting 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. They have now merged with *Future in Mind*, who promote positive mental health in 0 – 25-year-olds, with a range of services. For further details: [www.linktr.ee/futureinmind](http://www.linktr.ee/futureinmind) [Facebook](#)



### Childcare and Schools – Sector Work-based Academy Programme

Do you know a Hampshire resident aged 19+, currently unemployed and in receipt of benefits? Hampshire Achieves offers a **free** 3-week employability programme, to help people to apply for a job in the childcare and schools' sector. New course dates are available now.

For more details, check eligibility and apply, visit [Course: Hampshire Learns Adult Community Learning Offer \(participationandlifelonglearning.co.uk\)](#) or contact: [skills.participation@hants.gov.uk](mailto:skills.participation@hants.gov.uk).



### Important! Accessing 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare, or wanting to apply to start in September?

If your child is receiving 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare, or you are applying for the first time; make sure you re-confirm your information or apply **before the 31 August 2023** to ensure that your child receives their entitlement with no gaps or delays from September 2023.

To re-confirm or apply, visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



### Children starting school in September: School lunch options and wider support



School meals are a fantastic opportunity for children to get together and share the experience of trying new foods. Knowing that that children have having a healthy, delicious, and sustainably cooked meal every day, is one less thing for parents to worry about.

Find out more here about what is on offer - the Year R starter guide is very informative. [Save money with school lunches | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Families on low incomes may also benefit from the Pupil Premium: [Primary Schools and Nurseries | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Have an older child/ young person? Check out if your family is eligible for Free Schools Meals: [Free school meals | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)