

Services for Young Children

Parents/Carers Update December 2024

Included this month: Funded childcare hours for working parents, Early Years Skills Bootcamps, Time for a new career, Ofsted's role in regulating childcare, Baby's first haircut guide and festive activities for the family

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 December.
- ✓ **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 January 2025.

If you plan to return to work from parental leave or start a new job by the **end of January**, 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>

Skills Bootcamps are marching their way to you!



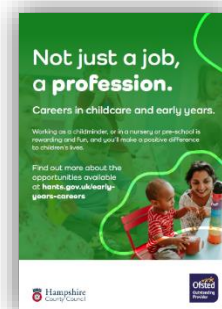
Join a Skills Bootcamp for Hampshire residents. Among the 'camps' there is an Early Years one, for people looking to start or change their career. Participants will be able to access a funded course to provide training and skills to prepare them for a role in either an Early Years or childcare setting, or to become a childminder. The next bootcamp is happening in **Andover, starting on 13 January 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/>

Time for a new career?

In Hampshire we need **Ofsted registered childminders** to help support children's development and learning, as well as provide a nurturing environment for children and young people to thrive. There is also a [childminder start up grant](#) to help set up your business, but you need to **apply to register soon**, to be eligible.

Up for the challenge... [want to know more](#), book for the next information session on **21 January 2025**: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-2025-becoming-a-registered-hampshire-childminder-info-session-tickets-946247390417>





Information for parents about Ofsted's role in regulating childcare

The guidance on how Ofsted regulates childcare and what parents should do if they have concerns about their provider, has been updated. The guidance now includes how Ofsted deal with anonymous complaints:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-for-parents-about-ofsteds-role-in-regulating-childcare/information-for-parents-about-ofsteds-role-in-regulating-childcare>

BBC Tiny Happy People - Baby's first haircut guide

First haircuts are a bigger milestone for a child and their parent than we may think.

Tiny Happy People has put together some tips on how you can help your little one stay calm during their first time at the barber's or hairdresser's...



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zbyc6rd>

And as it's that festive time of the year....

BBC Tiny Happy People have teamed up with ASDA Community to create some fun, **free** activity ideas for you, your little ones and the whole family during this festive period.

Check out the website for information about festive activities, crafts, family traditions, and if you have to a printer download their special activity pack to help keep the younger members of the family entertained. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/topics/ckkexpz4504t>

