

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update February 2026

Included this month: Funded childcare for children of working parents, 2-year-old early years education, Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Parent Meet and Connect sessions

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

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

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



Apply now to get your funded childcare code to start in April 2026. If you plan to return to work from parental leave or start a new job by the **end of April**, you can also apply for a childcare code.

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

If you are not working, speak to your childcare provider about 15 hours childcare for your 2, 3 or 4 year old: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/15-and-30-hours-support/>



2-year-old early years education (Families receiving additional support)

Your 2-year-old can get 15 hours of funded childcare a week if you or your child receives some extra support, for 38 weeks of the year. You may be able to have childcare for more than 38 weeks a year if you take fewer hours over more weeks: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds-extra-support>

For further details, and to apply:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/childcare/paying-for-childcare/2yearoldoffer>

Connect4communities – Holiday Activities and Food Programme

This **February half term** there are holiday schemes with free activities and meals for thousands of children from families on low incomes across Hampshire, which 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: <https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/family-information-and-services-hub-fish/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf/>

Hampshire Libraries - New Parent Meet and Connect Sessions

Check out a welcoming session for new parents to build confidence, reduce isolation, and connect with others.

Please see a short video about the sess [Our New Parent Meet and Connect sessions are such a delight!](#)



Visit their webpage to see which libraries are delivering the New Parent Meet and Connect Programme, and other events and activities: [Events in libraries | Leisure and culture | Hampshire County Council](#)