

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update – December 2025

Included this month: Starting School in 2026, Festive fun for families, Step into bootcamps, Family Corner, Christmas and your mental health

Starting School in 2026 Reminder

Applications are open for parents to apply for their child (born between 01 September 2021 – 31 August 2022) to start school in September 2026. The closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Parents will be able to apply online via the Hampshire County Council website:

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions. A PDF application form can be requested from the Admissions Team in exceptional circumstances.

On the website there is guidance on how to choose a school, what to do if they are moving house, starting school options including decelerated admission for summer born children, and other useful information: www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearR.

For further information or need help with your application you can contact the Admissions Team by e-mailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk or calling 0300 555 1377 (between 8.30am and 2pm).



Festive Fun for Families

[CBeebies Parenting](#) has lots of free festive inspiration for everyone - check out and the new [Festive Collection](#).

From support on [financial costs](#) and [sensory overload](#) to navigating the “[Chrimbo limbo](#)” days between Christmas and New Year, there’s something for everyone.

Discover [15 fun ways](#) to turn boxes and wrapping paper into decorations, pretend cars, and imaginative games (plus a FREE gift box template!) and so much more.

Parents, caregivers can also listen to the [CBeebies Parenting Helpline](#) to hear more about the festive juggle, with tips on navigating family dynamics and a special episode focusing on festive activities that won’t break the bank.

Step into bootcamps for your new career!

Hampshire County Council are funding **Playwork Skills Bootcamps** to support recruitment for wraparound care and Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programmes.

The next courses are taking place in **January 2026** in **Winchester** and **Southampton**: [Skills Bootcamps – Itchen Sixth Form College](#) Also, the next Early Years Skills Bootcamp is returning to **Eastleigh** in **February 2026**. Check out the latest film for details [Unlock Your Future with Skills Bootcamps | Hear from Learners & Employers](#)



Early Years Alliance - Family Corner Website

Early Years Alliance have launched their new, improved [Family Corner website](#) for parents and carers of children in the Early Years. Along with articles that cover a range of topics from birth onwards, parents and carers can access free online events.

Christmas and your mental health

Christmas and New Year are often associated with excitement and joy, but it can also be a difficult time, straining us mentally, emotionally, physically and financially. There are many reasons why this time of year can be challenging. It’s okay if you’re not feeling full of joy during the festive season. You can find advice and information to support during this time from [Mental Health UK](#).



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk