

Childcare

Everyone seems to be talking about the cost of childcare these days. Fortunately there are lots of childcare options out there to suit you, your child and your budget. Better still, there's more financial help available than you might imagine. ⁽¹⁾ For helpful contacts and other support options go to page 20.

If you are working or going back to work, and you have children, you can get financial and practical help with childcare. ⁽²⁾

Early Years Education Entitlement (EYE) – Free up to 15 hours each week for all 3 & 4 year olds. All 3 & 4 year old children in England are entitled to 570 hours free early year's education over the year. This entitlement can be taken from the term after the child's third birthday. In Hampshire childcare settings the 'Standard Offer' for this EYE funding is for up to 15 hours to be taken over 38 weeks per year, however some childcare providers also offer families options to take the EYE entitlement over more weeks over the year but taking fewer hours each week as a 'Stretched Offer'. For more information visit www.hants.gov.uk/eye

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for 3 & 4 year old children receiving early years education

Funding available to early years education providers for children whose families are eligible. The additional funding is used to provide extra support to children for learning and development. For more information visit www.hants.gov.uk/eye

Early Years Education Entitlement (EYE) for 2 year old children

There is also free EYE funding available for some 2 year olds. Eligibility for this funding is based on families meeting the following criteria.

Children whose parents/guardians are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross household income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

Children looked after by the Local Authority:

- Child in Care
- Child Leaving Care in Special Guardianship, adoption or residence order

Child with Special Educational Needs and / or Disability as defined by:

- Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
 - Child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs
 - Child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan)
- For more information follow the following link or talk to staff at your local Children's Centre
For further details visit www.hants.gov.uk/2-year-old-offer-2.htm#criteria

Early Years Education funded places are provided by the following range of providers who are registered with Ofsted or Independent Schools Inspectorate and have agreed to provide inclusive services that meet the local authority terms and conditions.

- Childminders
- Day Nurseries
- Pre-school playgroups
- Nursery classes
- Nursery classes in Independent Schools

The Family Information Directory provides information for parents and practitioners on childcare in their local community, such as childminders, pre-schools, nurseries, before and after school clubs, and holiday play schemes. Visit www.fid.hants.gov.uk/ChildCare

You could get extra tax credits to help pay for some of your childcare costs while you are working. Contact the Tax Credit helpline 0345 300 3900 or visit www.gov.uk/topic/benefits-credits/tax-credits for further details. ⁽³⁾

Top Tips

- It is important to consider your childcare needs to decide what service will be best to provide for you. Some provision can offer flexible services which may be important to you with options on early starts and late finishes, other providers may offer other services such as forest school sessions or options to purchase hot meals. It is recommended to book up places with a childcare provider early to secure your child's place as many can get fully booked for the next year.
- With nurseries, timing is crucial. The best nurseries will get booked up as much as a year in advance so make sure that you don't leave it until the last minute.
- If you are not sure what childcare options there are, the Hampshire Childcare and Family Information service can help, please use the following link or phone 0300 555 1384
- The Money Advice Service website has a great Cost of Childcare Calculator to estimate how much you might have to spend on childcare.
- You don't need to be on a low income to get help. Financial and practical assistance with childcare is available from many employers and from the state, but only for registered childcare.
- Funding may be available for children looked after by the local authority and those with additional needs and/or disabilities (visit www.hants.gov.uk)

1. Understanding childcare options. The Money Advice Service. 2013. <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/understanding-your-childcare-options> 2. Free early education. Gov.uk . 2013. <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

Helpful Contacts: Family/Home Support

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Discretionary Learner Support

If you're 20 or over and on a further education course you may be able to get Discretionary Learner Support to pay for childcare. Each college has its own scheme so contact the college direct to find out more. For more Information visit www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support.

Childcare Grant

If you're in full-time higher education you can apply for a Childcare Grant to pay for childcare costs for children under 15, or under 17 if they have special needs. Visit www.gov.uk/childcare-grant to find out more.

Care to Learn

Care to Learn payments go direct to your childcare provider to pay for childcare costs. You may be able to get Care to Learn if you're under 20 and caring for your own child. See www.gov.uk/care-to-learn.

Childminders

Your local Children's Information Service (CIS) can give you a list of registered childminders who have places available. You'll find the details of your nearest CIS on the Childcare Link website www.childcare.co.uk.

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Hampshire Cfit is a free, confidential and impartial service for parents and carers, providing information and guidance on childcare, early years education and related services in Hampshire for children and young people aged 0 -19 (including those with additional needs). Visit the Hampshire Childcare and Family Information Team website www.hants.gov.uk/childcare/cis.html for details of types of childcare available in Hampshire.

Cost of Childcare Calculator

The Money Advice Service website will show you what childcare options are available. They also have a great Cost of Childcare Calculator to estimate how much you might have to spend on childcare at www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/childcare-costs.

Find your local childcare

Whether you're looking for a nursery, pre-school, play group or after school club, the Hampshire Family Information Directory (FID) can help. The childcare search offers parents and practitioners the ability to search for information about childcare in their local community. Visit www3.hants.gov.uk/familyinformationdirectory. The homepage also provides a family service search for those looking for parenting courses, parent and toddler groups, counselling, leisure activities, advice and support.