

About Early Years education



In UK Early Years settings (nurseries) and in Reception (Year R), most of children's learning takes place through play. Early Years teachers structure the activities to promote talk. Children learn to problem-solve and say how they are going to do things. Research shows this can improve children's progress by **up to 7 months** over a year.

How do I find a pre-school or Nursery for my child?



How can I find a pre-school or nursery near me?

To search nationally (England and Wales), start here: [find a nursery school place](#)

Search Hampshire's Family Information Directory for information about childcare and family services here: [Hampshire FID information](#)

What does it cost?



How much does pre-school cost?

From the age of 2 years, you can get help with funding for a place at a registered pre-school (eligibility criteria apply). All children are eligible for 15 hours' **free** pre-school education from the age 3 years.

For more information, see [Free Early Education](#)

What can I do to help my child with their early development?



Make the most of everyday experiences to help your child develop and practise their language skills. Talk about numbers and practise counting whenever you can eg when you go shopping. Explore sinking and floating through bath-time play with empty, plastic bottles and containers. Ask "What do you think will happen if...?" questions. Talk about the pictures when you read a story to your child at bedtime. Do this in your home language or English, whichever is your strongest.

Research shows that children whose parents talk to them in this way make more progress than children who come from a language-poor background. A home environment rich in spoken language can add as much as **5 months' progress** over a year.

How do I find a school for my child?



To search all schools in Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight look here: [Search for a school in Hampshire](#)

You can apply online for a school place here [Apply for a school place online](#). In your application, you should name three schools in order of preference. You can choose from Infant schools, which cover Year R, Year 1 and Year 2, and Primary schools, which cover from Year R up to Year 6.

If you are making a late application for a place in Year R (after the January cut-off for online applications), you can still apply online here [Make a late application for a school place](#).

What should I do if my child is ill and can't go to school?



What if my child is ill?

Once your child is 5 and in compulsory education, if they are ill you must tell the school on the first day of absence. For more information see: [What to do if your child is unwell](#)

For a minor cold, children are not expected to stay off school. If your child has vomited, they should stay away from school for **48 hours** following the last time they vomited. This is to avoid spreading disease to other children. If your child's illness keeps them off school for longer periods, you should talk to the school about this.

I need to talk to someone in my language



EMTAS phone lines

[Phone lines](#) are available to talk about any concerns you may have about your child's education and to ask any questions. Our phone line staff speak various languages. Please [see our website](#) for current availability.

Links



- [EMTAS website pages](#) for parents of children in the Early Years and Year R
- ['Bringing up your child bilingually'](#) leaflet in a range of languages
- [National Literacy Trust](#) for more on bilingualism in the early years
- BookTrust ['Reading with your child'](#) booklet translated into many languages