



Help shape holiday childcare provision in Buckinghamshire - Survey for parent / carers

Open date: 5 June 2026

Close date: 30 August 2026

Contact: earlyyears@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

We want to hear your views on holiday childcare in Buckinghamshire and help us shape future improvements.

We want to understand what holiday childcare families in Buckinghamshire need, what is available locally, where there may be gaps, and any challenges faced when trying to use these services.

We want to hear from parents and carers of children aged 0-14 years, and up to 18 years for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), This includes families who live in Buckinghamshire, or whose children attend school or use childcare provision in Buckinghamshire.

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey on [Your Voice Bucks](#)
- complete, and return, a printed of the survey
email us at earlyyears@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at earlyyears@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Sunday 30 August 2026.

What happens next

Your feedback will help us plan and improve holiday childcare in Buckinghamshire. Updates will be posted on the [Buckinghamshire Early Years webpage](#) in the autumn term.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this survey. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. Survey responses will be analysed using Microsoft products including Copilot, Excel and Word.

For more information about data and privacy, please see our Privacy Policy: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/privacy/privacy-policy/>

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Or write to the Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

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Where you live

1. Do you live in Buckinghamshire? *(required)*

- Yes
- No (go to question 4)

2. Please tell us the Buckinghamshire town or village where you live: *(required)*

3. What is the first part of your postcode? (e.g., HP11) (required)

This helps us understand need in different areas. **Please do not provide your full postcode.**

(Go to question 5)

4. Please tell us Buckinghamshire town or village where you use holiday childcare? (required)

About you and your family

5. How many children aged 0–14 live in your household? (required)

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

6. How many children in your household have Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)?

For example, this could be an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, or a formal diagnosis/referral. *(required)*

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

7. Please tell us how many children in your household are in each age group (enter a number in each box) (required):

Early Years (0 – 4)

Reception / Key Stage 1 (ages 4–7)

Key Stage 2 (ages 7–11)

Secondary (ages 11–14)

Ages 14–18 with SEND

8. Does your child(ren) need 1:1 support or specific adaptations to access childcare?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

9. What is your current employment status? (required)

- Work full time
- Work part time
- Work full time non standard hours (e.g. night shift)
- Work part time non standard hours (e.g. night shift)
- Unemployed
- Studying / training
- Unable to work due to long-term health condition or disability
- Retired
- Other (please give detail below):

Holiday Childcare

11. Which type(s) of holiday childcare do you use? (tick all that apply) (required)

- Ofsted registered holiday club / childcare provider
- Holiday playscheme / activity provider
- Childminder
- School based holiday provision
- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provision (if eligible)
- Informal childcare (family / friend)
- I don't currently use holiday childcare
- I'm not sure
- Other (please give details below):

12. In which school holidays do you need childcare? (tick all that apply) (required)

- Autumn half term
- Christmas holidays
- Spring half term
- Easter holidays
- Summer half term
- Summer holidays
- Inset days
- None
- I'm not sure

13. How many children need holiday childcare? (required)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

14. Why do you need holiday childcare? (tick all that apply) *(required)*

- I work during school holidays
- My partner works during school holidays
- Both parents / carers work during school holidays
- Employer(s) does not offer flexible working
- No informal childcare available
- To support my child's routine / development
- Other (please give details below):

15. How many holiday childcare hours do you usually need? *(required)*

- Up to 3 hours per day
- 3-5 hours per day
- 5 – 8 hours per day
- Full day (8+ hours)
- Varies

Challenges

16. Which challenges have you experienced when trying to access holiday childcare?

(tick all that apply) *(required)*

- Cost is too high / can't afford it
- Not enough places are available
- Waiting lists
- Hours do not match my work / travel
- Provision is not available locally
- Transport difficulties
- SEND needs can't be met / lack of inclusive provision
- Lack of information / don't know what exists
- Provider does not accept Tax-Free Childcare / Universal Credit childcare
- Other (please give details below):

17. Which ONE barrier is the biggest right now for using holiday childcare?

- Cost
- Availability of places
- Hours / flexibility
- Transport
- SEND inclusivity
- Quality
- Lack of Information / awareness
- Other (please give details below):

18. Do you receive or use any help with childcare costs? (tick all that apply)

- Tax-Free Childcare
- Universal Credit childcare element
- Employer support
- HAF (holiday provision)
- None
- I'm not sure

Sufficiency in your local area

- 19. Do you feel there are enough options for holiday childcare in your local area? (required)**
- Yes
 - No
 - I'm not sure

20. If you answered "No", how much additional childcare would you need?

Holiday childcare: number of days per week needed

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Holiday childcare: hours per day needed

- 3 hours
- 3 – 5 hours
- 5 – 8 hours
- Full day (8+ hours)

21. If you cannot find the childcare you need, what is the impact on your family? (tick all that apply)

- Unable to take up work
- Reduced working hours
- Changed job / refused promotion
- Left job or training
- Increased stress / financial strain
- Relied on informal childcare
- Other (please give details below):

Improving provision in Buckinghamshire

22. What changes would help you most? (choose up to 3)

- More places at my child's school
- More places locally (walking distance)
- Earlier start times (before 8am)
- Later finish times (after 6pm)
- More SEND inclusive provision / trained staff
- Better transport links / closer provision
- More information about what is available
- More flexible / ad-hoc booking options
- Holiday childcare in more places
- Other (please give details below):

23. If you have any additional comments about holiday childcare in Buckinghamshire, please tell us here:

For example, what inclusive provision for your child might look like or any positive experiences you may have had with existing holiday childcare locally.

Optional follow-up

The Early Years service may contact you to discuss your feedback further where appropriate. If you are happy for us to contact you, please provide an email address or phone number.

By providing your contact details, you are consenting to us contacting you to discuss your feedback only. There is no guarantee we will contact you, but it allows us to do so.

24. Email address: (optional)

25. Phone number: (optional)

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on Sunday 30 August 2026.