



**Damian Hinds**  
*MP for East Hampshire*

News release

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For immediate release

### **Damian Hinds welcomes head start for Hampshire toddlers**

New figures released by the Government have shown how many more children in Hampshire will benefit from the new nursery places announced by the Chancellor.

In last month's Autumn Statement to the House of Commons, George Osborne announced that following the expansion of free nursery education for three and four year olds and the introduction of 15 hours of free care a week for the 20% most disadvantaged two year olds, the provision would be expanded to cover 40% of two year olds, some 260,000 children. The details of this policy have now been released.

In her response to a Parliamentary Question tabled by Damian Hinds, Children's Minister Sarah Teather has confirmed that the new entitlement will be phased in over the next two years with the 20% most disadvantaged two year olds being eligible from September 2013, rising to 40% in 2014.

According to Government figures, this will mean over 2,000 two year olds will be eligible in Hampshire by 2013, up to 100 of these being in East Hampshire.

Speaking in response to the figures, Damian Hinds said:

*"I know from my work on the education committee in Parliament, how much difference quality early-years provision can make. Actually, getting more 2-year-olds from less-well-off backgrounds into nursery is probably the single most effective thing we can do to improve their life chances and increase social mobility. It is also of course a big help to mums. Especially in these difficult times, I am delighted the Chancellor is finding the funds to do this."*

ENDS

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