

CARE TO LEARN - BENEFITS AND CREDITS

1. Overview

If you're studying and aged under 20 at the start of your course, Care to Learn can help pay for your [childcare costs](#) while you're learning.

It's only available for [courses](#) in England that have some public funding. This can include courses in:

- schools
- school 6th forms
- 6th form colleges

Call the Learner Support helpline to get an [application pack](#).

2. What you'll get

You can get up to:

- £160 per child per week if you live outside London
- £175 per child per week if you live in London

What it covers

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare 'taster' session (up to 5 days)
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to the childcare provider

Types of child care

The childcare provider can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

Payments

Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before your childcare provider can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

Payments for travel costs go to your school or college - they'll either pay you or arrange travel for you.

Attendance

Payments will stop if:

- you stop attending your course
- you finish your course
- your child stops attending childcare

3. Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you're the main carer for your child
- you live in England
- you're either a British citizen or a national of a [European Economic Area \(EEA\) country](#)
- your course is publicly funded (check with your school or college)
- your childcare provider is registered with Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission

Type of course

Care to Learn is only available for courses in England that have some public funding.

This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- school 6th forms
- 6th form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

Type of childcare

The childcare provider must be registered with Ofsted. If the child needs specialist childcare, the provider must also be on the Care Quality Commission's register for specialist provision.

If you want a relative to get Care to Learn for looking after your child they also need to be both:

- providing registered childcare for children they're not related to
- living apart from you and your child

Who can't get Care to Learn

You're not eligible for Care to Learn if:

- you're an apprentice who gets a salary
- you're doing a higher education course at university

4. How to claim

To get an application form and guidance notes call the Learner Support helpline.

If you have one, give the details of your support worker. The Learner Support Service might need to contact them.

Learner Support helpline

0800 121 8989

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

[Find out about call charges](#)

What you need to know

You need to complete an application form each year you want to claim.

You must apply within 28 days of starting your course so that your childcare provider is paid from the beginning of your course.

If you apply after that, your childcare provider will only be paid from the beginning of the week that your application was received.

Where to send the form

A pre-paid envelope comes with the application pack

5. Further information

Help

The form comes with guidance notes on how to fill it in. If you need advice or help with your application or if you're not satisfied with how your application was handled, call the Learner Support helpline.

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After you apply

If you qualify you'll get a letter and a payment plan telling you what financial help you can get.

Your childcare provider will also get a copy of the payment plan, telling them when they'll get payments.

If your application for travel costs is successful, your learning provider will get a letter telling them when they'll get payments.

If your circumstances change

You need to complete a change of circumstances form if your details change. This includes changes to your:

- personal details
- childcare provider
- hours of childcare
- childcare fees
- travel costs
- course, learning programme or learning provider

- study hours (including private study or time to take exams)

To get the change of circumstances form call the Learner Support Helpline.

Benefits

Claiming Care to Learn will not affect your own or your family's benefits or allowances.