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Young parents to be offered childcare and lifeskills courses

Teenage mums and dads are being offered help in coping with pregnancy and the early months of a child's life on courses to run in **Hemel Hempstead** in April.

The ten-week course is aimed at young people aged between 16 and 18 years and covers a range of life skills including healthy eating, literacy and first aid as well as enjoyable social activities such as picnic trips and photography.

Tutors hope the course will provide a solid grounding for young people who are soon to become or have recently become parents, lead to qualifications in literacy and childcare and encourage young people back into education or work in the future.

Rachael Norman from the Learning and Skills Council Hertfordshire which funds the courses said: "Some young people have their education interrupted when they become pregnant or parents and so these courses are designed to get them re-interested in education by focusing on things that are relevant to them right now. It's all about giving young parents practical skills and getting them back in touch with learning".

The courses are aimed at both males and females and are designed to be informative and fun, as well as leading to a qualification. An important aim of the courses is to help break down any barriers young people may have about getting back in to education and so help

to cover the cost of travel and childcare while parents learn is available with the Education Maintenance Allowance and through the Care to Learn scheme.

The course is run by West Herts College at the Grovehill Community Centre in Hemel Hempstead and starts on 8 April with an introduction day on 18 March. Sessions take place on Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays between 9.00am and 2.45pm each day. For more information please contact Maureen Daly or Rachel Holden on 01923812000 or email Maureen.Daly@westherts.ac.uk

Anyone wishing to find out more about available funding to help with learning should ring the EMA helpline on 080 810 16 2 19 and the Care to Learn helpline on 0845 600 2809.

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In November 2007 there were 452 young people under the age of 18 years old who are pregnant or caring for a child in Hertfordshire. (Figures supplied by Connexions)

The Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

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