

Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work e-bulletin

March 2009

Welcome to the March e-bulletin about the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme.

From 1st April 2009, Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work will provide childcare support for low income families with children, where one parent is working and the other parent (aged 20 or over), is out of work and looking to participate in learning that will lead to work.

The scheme will provide up to £175 per child per week (or £215 in London) to help pay for childcare and related transport costs.

In this edition, we remind you to order your application packs and ask you to distribute them to eligible parents reminding them to return completed packs with all requested documentation.

Each month, we send out an e-bulletin to keep you informed about the progress being made towards the introduction of the scheme. If you would like to be added to (or removed from) our distribution list, please email us at freechildcare-adults@lsc.gov.uk

You can view previous e-bulletins by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcarentraininglearning/resources/help/>

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1. Reminder - the scheme starts in April!

Learners should return their completed applications

We would like you, where possible, to remind learners to return their completed applications for 2008/09. We are now processing applications we have received and are ready to begin making payments in April.

We also ask you to emphasise to learners the need to return **a complete application pack**. A completed pack consists of all relevant parts filled in accompanied with any original documents requested. Guidance notes in the pack explain how to complete the form and, by doing this correctly, learners can help us speed up the assessment process and reduce any delay in them accessing support.

Order your application packs for distribution

Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work application packs for the 2008/09 academic year are now available.

You can order 2008/09 application packs from LSC Publications by calling: **0845 602 2260** or emailing: **lsc@prolog.uk.com**.

Please make sure you quote ref: **LSC-P-NAT-080223** to make sure you get the correct application pack.

Application packs for the 2009/10 academic year will be made available at a later date. We will let you know when 2009/10 packs are available through future editions of this e-bulletin.

2. Regional seminar series has completed

Since the beginning of February we have been running regional seminars to raise awareness of the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme and to provide a walkthrough of the Learner Support Service from a Childcare Provider and Learning Provider perspective.

We have now completed this series of events. In all, we held twenty seminars that were well received and attended by over 890 of your representatives. If you missed the opportunity to attend you can view the slideshow presentation from the events by clicking on the link:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/FCTLW_Seminar_Presentation_Feb-March09.pdf

You provided us with valuable feedback and questions that we are currently going through and using to develop the scheme. We will update the FAQ section of our website as soon as possible and will let you know when this is done.

3. NAFIS National Conference

We had a stand at the National Association of Family Information Services' (NAFIS) National conference that was held on Wednesday, 11th March at the Russell Hotel in London. We found the level of awareness of the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme to be very good amongst attendees at the event and we hope to improve this using continued bulletins and promotional materials and campaigns.

To find out more about the conference please visit the NAFIS website at www.familyinformationservices.org.uk/services/events.htm

4. Scheme information and guidance

Please remember that we have produced some background materials to help you prepare for the scheme and to give you the information you need to support learners and answer some of the questions they may have.

You can access all of these materials by visiting our website at www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/resourcesto_help .

In addition to these materials we have published the **2008/09 Policy Guidance** for the scheme. You can view it on our website by clicking on the link:
<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/guidance200809/>

5. The Field Force Team

The first point of call for all learning provider queries should be the helpline on **0845 600 7979**. The helpline will be able to resolve most of the questions and issues you encounter.

For more complex queries, beyond that offered by the helpline, you can contact your local field force representative using the details below. As the Field Force are mobile, we recommend you first contact your representative by email.

Bryan Walsh Email: bryan.walsh@capita.co.uk Phone: 07976 468 256	NORTH WEST: All areas WEST MIDLANDS: Staffordshire, Shropshire
Kathy Betteridge Email: kathy.betteridge@capita.co.uk Phone: 07909 934601	NORTH EAST: All areas YORKS AND HUMBER: All areas EAST MIDLANDS: Derbyshire

<p>Rachael Norman Email: rachael.norman@capita.co.uk Phone : 07989 693 788</p>	<p>EASTERN: All areas EAST MIDLANDS: Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland SOUTH EAST: Thames Valley (Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Bucks)</p>
<p>Bill Rogers Email: bill.rogers@capita.co.uk Phone: 07989 693 717</p>	<p>LONDON: All areas SOUTH EAST: Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Medway, Hampshire and Isle of Wight</p>
<p>Vicky Bush Email: victoria.bush@capita.co.uk Phone: 07500 917 351</p>	<p>SOUTH WEST: All areas WEST MIDLANDS: Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Coventry and Warwickshire, Birmingham and Solihull, The Black Country</p>

6. Actions you may need to take

A reminder of the actions to be taken over the next few weeks. Please:

- Order 2008/09 application packs, Call 0845 602 2260 or email lsc@prolog.uk.com quoting ref: LSC-P-NAT-080223;
- Distribute application packs to eligible parents who may be interested in benefiting from the scheme;
- Talk to eligible parents about the scheme and encourage them to take part. You can access materials to help you at www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/resource/stohelp .

7. Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work – briefing note

We are producing a briefing note aimed at new providers to give the important information you need know about the scheme. You will be able to view this on our website shortly.

Also, remember that to help you answer basic questions about the scheme, we have prepared some frequently asked questions (FAQs) that you can view at www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/FAQs

8. How to find out more

Further information for providers

Learning providers and **childcare providers** can find out more about Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work by visiting our website at www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning

You can also call us on **0845 600 7979** – Please select option four, ‘Free Childcare for Adults’.

Later in the year we will be issuing a regular childcare bulletin to keep you updated about the LSC’s childcare support schemes. We will communicate updates to you via this new integrated bulletin when the Free Childcare for Training and Work scheme is up and running.

If you would be interested in receiving this, please send an email to Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk. Please ensure you tell us the type of organisation you work for in the subject header of the email (e.g. childcare provider, learning provider, Connexions support worker, other type of support worker or other type of organisation). Letting us know the type of organisation you work for will enable us to better support all our stakeholders in the future.

Further information for learners

Learners can find out more about the scheme by visiting www.direct.gov.uk/freechildcareforlearning

They can also call the learner helpline on **0800 121 8989** – Learners should select option four, ‘Free Childcare for Adults’. This is a freephone number which can also be used to access advice about other Learner Support schemes managed by the LSC, including Care 2 Learn, the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and the Adult Learning Grant (ALG).