

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE – LEARNER SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Name of Scheme	Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work
What does it do?	'Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work' will support adults (aged 20 years and over) in the target group by paying for childcare and travel costs while they are undertaking training or learning leading to work.
Who is eligible?	<p>The target group for this scheme are families, with dependant children, where one parent is working but is on a low income and the other parent is not working but is looking to undertake learning or training.</p> <p>The household income of the family must have been £20,000 or under in the previous tax year.</p> <p>Learners must be aged 20 years and over</p>
What type of learning is applicable?	<p>Any, unwaged, LSC funded provision up to and including Level 3.</p> <p>This could be delivered via a number of different routes, for example in an FE college or delivered as Adult Safeguarded Learning.</p> <p>There are no minimum or maximum course length criteria for this scheme. Taster courses through to 'A' levels are eligible, providing that the course provides a clear learning outcome and is part of a progression route into sustainable employment.</p>
How much support is available?	'Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work' will pay childcare (and transport) costs of up to £175 per child per week (£215 per child per week in London).
What can/can't the funding be used for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ofsted registered childcare for time when the learner is undertaking LSC funded learning/training ✓ Associated travel costs that learners face when traveling between home and their childcare provider. ✓ Fees necessary for a parent to retain a childcare place during the holidays ✓ Any deposit that the provider usually charges to reserve a place, up to £250 ✗ Unregistered childcare ✗ A young parent who is under 20 years of age when they start learning ✗ Learning or training that is not LSC funded
How does the learner apply?	<p>Learners will need to complete an application form to apply for this support. They will need to ensure that their partner, their learning provider and their childcare provider have also completed their relevant sections of the form.</p> <p>The learner will then need to send all sections of this form (in the pre-paid envelope) to the Learner Support Service (LSS), who will process the form to determine the learner's eligibility for this support.</p>
What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learners claiming childcare support from this scheme may also be eligible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Learning Grant • Discretionary Hardship • Career Development Loans ✗ Learners must <u>not</u> be receiving support from another source (including Job Centre Plus, the Sixth Form College Childcare Scheme and discretionary 20+ Childcare) for the childcare and transport costs that are funded through this scheme.

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How are the funds administered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications for this scheme are assessed by the Learner Support Service (LSS). If the learner is eligible they will receive a Notice of Entitlement along with a payment plan that sets out how much will be paid over what period of time.• The childcare provider will receive payment directly in advance by BACS payment• Any funding to help with travel costs will be paid directly to the learning provider, who then arranges payment to the learner.
What is the aim?	The aim of this scheme is to encourage the non-working parent within a family to participate in learning or training that will help lead them into sustainable employment. Therefore, contributing to the targets to reduce child poverty by improving the longer term job prospects of families.
Further information and Contact Details	<p><u>For Providers and Partners</u></p> <p>LSC Internet Site: www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/</p> <p>Query Inbox: freechildcare-adults@lsclearnersupport.co.uk</p> <p>Helpline: 0845 600 7979</p> <p><u>For Learners</u></p> <p>DirectGov Site: www.direct.gov.uk/freechildcareforlearning</p> <p>Helpline: 0800 121 8989</p>