


## Quick Reference Guide: Learner Support

<b>Care to Learn</b>	
<b>What does it do?</b>	C2L helps young parents – mothers and fathers – to participate in learning by helping with their childcare and associated transport costs while they learn.
<b>Who is eligible?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be under 20 on the day that learning starts</li> <li>▪ Must be responsible for caring for the child (or their partner is unable to care)</li> <li>▪ Childcare must be registered or approved by Ofsted</li> <li>▪ Must be attending publicly funding learning in England</li> <li>▪ Must meet the residency criteria</li> </ul>
<b>What type of learning is applicable?</b>	To receive C2L the learner must be in, or considering starting, learning that has some public funding including school, sixth forms, Colleges of Further Education, work-based learning, community learning, taster courses etc. Distance learning and Higher Education courses are not eligible.
<b>How much could the learner receive?</b>	C2L will pay up to £160 per child each week (up to £175 if living in London) in 2010/11.
<b>What can/can't the funding be used for?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Appropriately registered childcare for many kinds of learning, training or work-based learning which is partly or fully publicly funded</li> <li>✓ The necessary additional travel costs that young parents face in going between their childcare and home</li> <li>✓ Childcare necessary to provide for essential private study associated with the learning or training</li> <li>✓ Fees necessary for a young parent to retain a childcare place during the holidays</li> <li>✓ Any deposit and/or registration fees</li> </ul>

	<p>that the childcare provider usually charges to reserve a place up to £250.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A trial; this might take the form of a session or two with different providers to find the right arrangement for the parent, child and provider</li> <li>✗ Unregistered childcare</li> <li>✗ A young parent who is 20 or over when they start learning</li> <li>✗ Learning or training that is not publicly funded</li> <li>✗ Learners undertaking a distance learning course</li> <li>✗ Learners in higher education who have access to the HE Childcare Grant</li> <li>✗ Childcare provided by a relative who is not appropriately registered with Ofsted AND providing registered childcare services to other children AND living apart from the child.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How does the learner apply?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Learners can request an application form from <a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn">www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn</a>, or by phoning the learner helpline: 0800 121 8989</li> <li>▪ For the 2010/11 academic year learners will only need to submit their own details before applying for Care to Learn</li> <li>▪ The completed form should be returned to the Learner Support Service in the pre-paid envelope provided</li> <li>▪ If the learner meets the eligibility criteria they will receive a Notice of Entitlement (NoE). This will inform the learner they are eligible for financial support, up to the maximum weekly available, for each child, when they start a valid learning programme and take up a childcare place with a <b>valid</b> Childcare Provider. They will also receive two registration forms, one for the Childcare Provider and one for the Learning</li> </ul>

	<p>Provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The learner should then take the Childcare Provider Registration Form to prospective Childcare Providers when they make their childcare arrangements, to prove they are eligible for Government-funded financial support</li> <li>▪ They should also take the Learning Provider Registration Form to their Learning Provider when they make arrangements for learning. The Learning Provider will also help them arrange any transport costs</li> </ul>
<p><b>What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Learners receiving C2L can also apply for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) up to £30 a week. This financial support is for learners to use as they wish. As parents themselves, they are assessed on their own income, not that of their parents or careers, even if they live with them. C2L applicants may also be eligible for Adult Learning Grant (at 19) and discretionary learner support (Hardship and Residential Bursaries)</li> <li>✓ Benefits such as Income Support, Working Tax credits, etc are not affected</li> <li>✓ Young parents on a low income may also be eligible for Sure Start maternity Grant and NHS Healthy Start Vouchers</li> <li>✗ However, the other parent must NOT be claiming Childcare Tax Credit</li> <li>✗ Young parents undergoing an Apprenticeship with “employee status” are not eligible for C2L</li> </ul>
<p><b>How are the funds administered?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applications for C2L are assessed by the Learner Support Service (LSS) which is also responsible for making the payments to childcare providers to cover childcare costs, and to Learning Providers for assistance with travel costs, and for providing a telephone help service</li> <li>▪ The childcare provider will receive</li> </ul>

	<p>payment directly from Care to Learn in advance by BACS payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any funding to help with travel costs will be paid directly to the learning or training provider regularly and they will reimburse the learner</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is the aim?</b></p>	<p>The key objective of C2L is to raise participation in learning by young parents, and to lift them out of the cycle of poverty by equipping them with skills and qualifications.</p>
<p><b>What are the key achievements of the funding?</b></p>	<p>An independent report published in December 2009 shows the programme is making a real difference to young parents undertaking learning, enabling them to get good qualifications while increasing their confidence and improving their ability to compete in the marketplace. Of those surveyed, <i>98% of young parents who benefited from Care to Learn said that they couldn't have done the learning they did without it.</i></p>
<p><b>Further Information and Contact Details</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Information for Providers and Advisors (YPLA website)</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Information for Applicants (Direct.gov website)</a></li> <li>▪ <b>Provider Helpline: 0845 600 7979</b></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Care to Learn Guidance 2010/11</a></li> </ul>