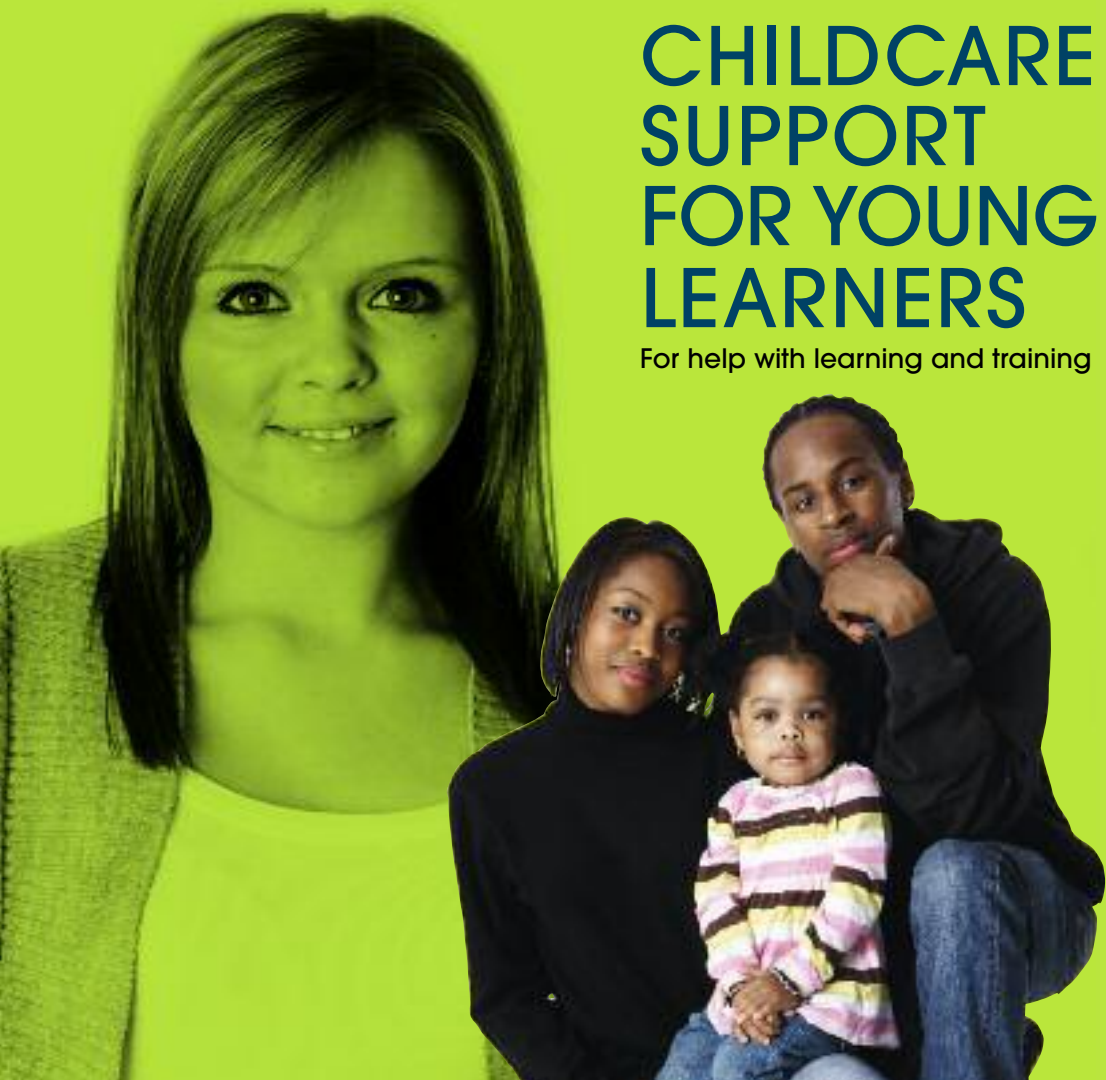


CARE TO LEARN

direct.gov.uk/caretolearn

CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

For help with learning and training



If you are under 20 years old and want to study, you can get childcare support from Care to Learn of up to £160 a week, or up to £175 a week in London.

2010

For more information visit direct.gov.uk/caretolearn
or call the helpline on 0800 121 8989

HOW CAN CARE TO LEARN HELP ME?



If you are a young parent aged under 20 and you want to continue or start learning, we can help with your childcare costs.

WHY SHOULD I LEARN?






Doing a course or some training will help you to make a better future for yourself and your child. It will help you to:

- ❁ develop new skills and increase your confidence;
- ❁ improve your chances of getting a better job;
- ❁ mix with other people and get out and about;
- ❁ become more independent; and
- ❁ perhaps get new qualifications.



CAN I GET CARE TO LEARN?

You can get Care to Learn if you:

-  are a parent and under 20 when you start your course;
-  follow a course in a school or college, try a learning opportunity in the community or train with a learning provider that uses public funds and is a not-for-profit organisation;
-  are caring for your own child(ren), whether you are the father or the mother;
-  are living and learning in England; and
-  use an Ofsted-registered childcare provider.

If you are over 20 and want to start learning, you should contact your local college or Careers Advice service on 0800 100 900 for information on how to find childcare.



WHAT WILL CARE TO LEARN PAY FOR?

We will pay up to £160 per child per week (£175 if you live in London) for:

- ❁ childcare costs while you learn, including while you are on placements that are linked to your course;
- ❁ childcare costs for extra home/private study time;
- ❁ any necessary childcare fees payable during holidays in order to retain your child's place; and
- ❁ your necessary travel costs between your home and childcare provider.

In addition we will pay for:

- ❁ a childcare deposit (up to £250) if one is charged; and
- ❁ a childcare registration fee (up to £80) if one is charged.



HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

You can claim up to £160* per week for each child.

London weighting

If you live within a London borough, you can claim up to £175* per week for each child.



** The £160 and £175 per week apply from September 2010 and are subject to annual review.*



WHAT LEARNING CAN I DO?

Schools, colleges and trainers will try to arrange for you to attend the course or mix of learning and activities that you want to do. They will be as flexible as possible about the times and days that you attend. This will help you to manage your learning and childcare.

Different types of learning include the following:

-  Courses in schools, sixth form colleges, other colleges and learning providers. There is a range of different things you could do and they will try to be flexible about how often you need to attend and the times of your course.
-  The courses do not have to run in a college or school and do not need to be linked to qualifications. Care to Learn will also fund learning opportunities that give you the chance to try something completely different – it may be a practical course or a course offered by a provider in the voluntary sector and it may not end with a qualification.

If you are not sure what type of learning you want to do, contact your local Connexions service. You can find contact details on page 20 of this leaflet.



HOW MANY HOURS MUST I ATTEND EACH WEEK?

There is no set or minimum number of hours. You can choose to complete a part-time or full-time course or some other learning opportunity. Your learning could last anything from a few days or weeks to several years. The most important thing is that you choose something that suits you.



HOW WILL MY CHILDCARE AND TRAVEL BE PAID FOR?

We will pay your childcare provider for the childcare and your learning provider for your travel.



WILL CARE TO LEARN AFFECT MY OWN OR MY FAMILY'S BENEFITS OR ALLOWANCES?

Care to Learn will **not** affect your own or your family's benefits or allowances in any way.

Also, you **do not** have to be getting benefits in order to have your childcare paid through Care to Learn.



WHAT IF I AM NOT SURE ABOUT LEAVING MY CHILD?

Most young parents feel this way at first. Letting someone else look after your child is a big step.

Please talk to a Connexions Personal Adviser, your local Family Information Service or another adviser about your worries.

A Connexions Personal Adviser can arrange for you to visit different childcare providers. If you are still not sure about leaving your child, we would be pleased to pay for you to have a few taster sessions to see if the childcare suits you and your child.






Everyone wants to help and support you, so please talk to us and we will do our best to help.



WHAT KIND OF CHILDCARE CAN I USE?



You can use:

-  a childminder;
-  a pre-school playgroup;
-  a day nursery;
-  an out-of-school club; or
-  other childcare, e.g. your college nursery.

Please note: All childcare must normally be Ofsted registered to be eligible for payment from Care to Learn.

If regular care is not suitable we may also approve support for a carer or nurse registered on the Care Quality Commission's register, on a case-by-case basis.



HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY CHILD WILL BE SAFE?

We will normally only fund childcare that is registered with Ofsted. Registered childcare may be inspected to make sure it meets national standards and provides good quality care.

Don't worry if you're unsure about what childcare to use. A Connexions Personal Adviser, your local Family Information Service or local childminding network can help you to find childcare that suits you.

If you want to find childcare yourself, call the Family Information Service helpline on 0800 234 6346 for details of your local Family Information Service or log onto direct.gov.uk and search for childcare.



EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Did you know that you may also be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of up to £30 a week while you stay in learning?

As a parent yourself, only your own income will be taken into account for assessment purposes, not that of your parents or carers.

To find out more or to get an application form, visit direct.gov.uk/ema or call the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989.



HOW IS CARE TO LEARN HELPING OTHER LEARNERS?



I always wanted to go back and study after I had my baby and Care to Learn helped me do that. I have been able to go back to college and I have recently qualified as a dental nurse. I now have a part-time job and want to go on to be a hygienist or a dentist. Care to Learn gave me the help and support I needed to go to college and without it I would not have been able to gain qualifications and find a job.

Sarah, 19, London

It's been great and really helpful to have Care to Learn so that I can stay at school and study. I chose a nursery for my son and I feel very happy leaving him there. Everything is scheduled and organised. When you walk in you even have to put plastic covers on your shoes so the nursery doesn't get dirty! I'm doing my GCSE exams this summer and then I want to go to college to do beauty therapy.

Gill, 16, London

I am a young mother with a five-month-old son. I did well at school and achieved nine GCSEs at grade C and above. My ambition is to have a career in travel, but I needed childcare for my son so I could go to college to study. After visiting childminders and nurseries, I chose a nursery for my son. Care to Learn pays for this. Because the pressure of being able to pay for childcare has been taken away from me, I am able to enjoy my course in business studies and business travel.



Susan, 17, Milton Keynes

I got good grades at school, and after having a baby girl at the end of year 11, I wanted to return to the sixth form to take AS levels. I found childcare for my daughter near my school, which Care to Learn pays for. This means that I can continue with my studies. I hope to go to a local university in September.

Carol, 18, Milton Keynes



I was 15 years old when I became pregnant. My school contacted the Teen Parent Childcare Coordinator to find out what childcare support would be available for my baby when I returned to school. That is when I found out about Care to Learn.

When Dylan was born, the coordinator visited me and we started to look for local childminders. I went to visit a few childminders with the coordinator. I live with my dad, and he really wanted to get involved too, so he came along as well.

The first childminder we visited we really liked and that was the one we chose. She was ideal for Dylan and lived nearby, so I could get to school and home again easily.

My dad was so surprised to find out about the Care to Learn scheme and said it was fantastic in helping teenage mums to go back to school. He is very happy that I can finish my education at school, knowing that his grandson is safe and happy.

Dylan and I continue to have support from the childminder and the coordinator, which is very helpful.

Becky, 16, Bradford





WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If you have not chosen the learning or childcare that you want don't worry, as you can still apply for Care to Learn (see over the page for how to do this). To find out about the courses or childcare that are available to you:




- 🌸 contact your local Connexions Personal Adviser or Connexions Direct – they can tell you about different types of learning, different kinds of childcare and who else can help; or
- 🌸 talk to someone at your school or college; or
- 🌸 get in touch with one of the organisations listed on page 21 of this leaflet.



i n d e p e n d e n c e

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR CARE TO LEARN?

You can apply for Care to Learn:

-  by requesting an application pack online at direct.gov.uk/caretolearn;
-  by asking your local Connexions service for an application form; or
-  by phoning the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989.

If you need help using the internet, speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser or your school, college or learning provider. Once you have completed the application form, make sure you enclose any evidence you need and send it to us.

Need any other help or advice?

If you need any other help or advice, call the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989 or email c2l@yplalearnersupport.co.uk.

Other sources of information are listed on page 21 of this leaflet.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When the Learner Support Service receives your form, they will check that it's been fully completed.

- ✿ If it hasn't they will return it to you with a request for the missing information.
- ✿ If your application is accepted, the Learner Support Service will send you a Notice of Entitlement (NoE).
- ✿ You will need to take your NoE to your chosen childcare provider when you enrol your child. The NoE tells your childcare provider that they can get up to £160 per week (£175 if you live in London) for looking after your child.
- ✿ You also need to take your NoE to your chosen learning provider. Your learning provider will help you agree and arrange any travel payments.
- ✿ If your learning or childcare provider is not sure about Care to Learn, please show them this leaflet, direct them to caretolearn.ypla.gov.uk or advise them to ring our Learner Support Provider helpline 0845 600 7979.
- ✿ If you're not eligible for Care to Learn, you'll get a letter explaining why.



OTHER INFORMATION

For more information about careers and learning providers, contact your local Connexions Service. You can find their details at connexionsdirect.com, using the “Local Services” link on the home page. Alternatively, you can contact Connexions Direct on 080 800 132 19



Help in finding a course

For more information about careers and learning provider's contact:

- 🌻 Your local Connexions Service (see page 20 for details)
- 🌻 Careers Advice Service – 0800 100 900, direct.gov.uk/careersadvise
- 🌻 Apprenticeships – apprenticeships.org.uk

Help in finding childcare

- 🌻 Family Information Service – 0800 234 6346, direct.gov.uk/childcarefinder
- 🌻 Your local Connexions service may also be able to help with this.

General information

- 🌻 Education Maintenance Allowance – 0800 121 8989, direct.gov.uk/ema
- 🌻 Fatherhood Institute – 0845 634 1328, fatherhoodinstitute.org

For more information about your application form or changing your arrangements, go to direct.gov.uk/caretolearn or phone the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989. Our helpline is open from Monday to Friday, 7am to 8pm, and we have friendly people on hand to answer your queries.





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Please quote ref: YPLA-P-100015

Local contact details:

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