

Care to Learn Fund

Help with childcare costs for students who are young parents

1. Overview

Education Providers in England offer the Care to Learn funding scheme which can help young parents with the cost of registered childcare while they study.

Parents must be **aged under 20** at the start of their course.

The fund is available for courses in England that are publicly funded (such as courses at schools and colleges up to level 3)

Claiming Care to Learn will not affect a family's benefits or allowances.

2. What Care to Learn funding covers

- **£180 childcare costs, per child per week** (there is a higher amount of £195 in London)

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping a childcare place over the summer holiday
- travel costs for the journey from home to the childcare provider (only available if total childcare costs are less than £180 per child per week)

Payments

College will make payments directly to your childcare provider.

Before a payment can be made:

- You must have fully completed the application and provided requested evidence
- your childcare provider needs to fill in a contract with the College, send monthly invoices and confirm your child's attendance
- College needs to confirm that you have been attending your course

If you qualify for help with travel costs from home to your childcare provider, this will be paid to you by College, or a travel pass will be issued to you.

When payments stop

Payments end when:

- you stop attending your course
- you reach the end of your course
- your child stops attending childcare
- The child is no longer in your care

3. Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if all of the following apply to you:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you're the main carer for your child
- you live in England
- you're either a British Citizen or have a legal right to live and study in England
- your course qualifies
- your childcare provider qualifies

Your course

Care to Learn is only available for publicly-funded courses in England. This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- sixth-forms in schools
- sixth-form colleges
- Colleges and education providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

Your education provider can tell you if your course is eligible.

Your childcare provider

To qualify, your childcare provider must be one of the following:

- registered with Ofsted
- registered with a childminder agency
- a school

They can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

Who cannot get Care to Learn

You're not eligible for Care to Learn, but may get help from other schemes, if:

- you're an apprentice who gets a salary
- you're doing a higher education course, for example at a university

4. How to apply

Apply for the Care to Learn scheme by contacting the College Financial Welfare Team. They will tell you if you and your childcare provider are eligible and help you with your application.

When you apply, you must provide either:

- a copy of the child's birth certificate
- a letter confirming receipt of Child Benefit for your child

welfare@leedscitycollege.ac.uk