

# Childcare Funding Options

## Useful Links

<https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>

<https://www.gov.uk/learner-support>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-childcare/universal-credit-childcare-guide>

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/childcare-costs/>

One of the biggest worries young parents are faced with when thinking about returning to education or starting work is the cost of childcare. With the average cost of sending a child under the age of two to nursery being:

£137.69 a week part-time (25 hours)

£263.81 a week full-time (50 hours).  
(Source: Childminder and nursery costs from Family and Childcare Trust, 2021)

It's understandable to think "It's just not possible!!"

Well, the good news is—it is possible!! There is help and support available!! There are a few different options when it comes to Childcare funding for young parents and here they are:

1) **Care to Learn**— Young Parents who are under 20 when they start any courses in schools, sixth forms, colleges or by training providers are able to access funding to cover the cost of childcare up to £160 per week. Schools, Colleges and Education Providers are usually able to support in sourcing local childcare if needed and funding remains for the duration of the course too!

2) **Learner Support Fund**—this funding is available for students who are over the age of 19 facing financial hardship. This can help to pay for things like:

- Accommodation and travel
- Course materials and equipment
- Childcare - if you qualify

3) **Universal Credit Childcare Element**—  
You can get this if you are:

- A single parent and are in work
- Are part of a couple and you both work or one of you works and the other unable to work because they are ill, a carer or absent from the house.

You can get up to 85% of your childcare costs paid for, up to £646 per month or up to £1108 for 2 children. The amount you get depends on individual circumstance.

4) **Tax Free Childcare**— If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both.



## The Benefits of Childcare

It can be a very difficult choice to make when thinking about returning to work or study especially if the "Mum Guilt Monster" rears its ugly head however there are so many benefits for parents and children from accessing childcare local childcare—here are just a few:

- ◆ Opportunities to play and interact with other children and build social and communication skills.
- ◆ Have lots of fun exploring lots of different activities to support their learning and development, which also gives you ideas of things to do at home.
- ◆ Childcare providers can give lots of parenting support and advice.
- ◆ It can help create structure and routine for you and your child.
- ◆ Children are encouraged to become more independent and parents get some time to do things for



Use the Childcare Choices link above to help you choose the option most suited to you if you are working and unsure

Childcare  
Choices