



**Family and
Childcare Trust**

Creating a family friendly UK

Help with childcare costs – for student parents in England

Early learning and childcare gives children the chance to explore the world around them, make friends, socialise, and be ready for school. Childcare also gives parents like you a chance to work, study, get things done at home or just have a break. Childcare can be expensive though, and many parents worry that they can't afford it. However, there is plenty of help available towards the costs of childcare.

Care to Learn

If you are aged under 20 at the start of your course, Care to Learn helps with the costs of your childcare so that you can continue your education or training.

You can get up to £160 per week per child in most places in England and up to £175 in London. Funding is also available to cover childcare deposits and registration fees. Care to Learn will only pay towards Ofsted registered childcare.

You can also call the Learner Support helpline on **0800 121 8989**
or visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

Further education students in England

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

If you are aged 20 or over and studying on a college course, the Discretionary Learner Support Fund may be able to help you with a variety of costs, including childcare. The amount of funding available will vary for each college.

You can apply for these funds at your college by speaking to the student support or welfare officer.

For further information about courses for which you could receive funding contact the National Careers Service on **0800 100 900**

16 – 19 Bursary Fund

You may be able to get a bursary to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and in further education. It can be used to pay for things like:

- ▶ clothing, books and other equipment for your course
- ▶ transport and lunch on days you study or train





What funding is available for higher education students in England?

Higher education includes courses such as BAs, BScs MAs and other postgraduate courses such as PhDs. It also includes HNDs, HNCs and DipHEs.

Childcare Grant

If you are eligible for student finance with dependent children aged under 15, (under 17 if your child is disabled), you may be able to get the Childcare Grant. It is paid in three instalments through the Students Loan Company and does not have to be repaid. The maximum grant award for 2015/16 is £155.24 per week for one child and £266.15 per week for two or more children. You cannot get this grant if you or your partner claims the childcare element of Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit or the new tax free childcare scheme.

Contact Student Finance England on **0300 100 0607** for further information.

The Parents Learning Allowance – for higher education students

Full-time students could get extra support with course-related costs such as travel, books, equipment and childcare, on top of the Childcare Grant (see above). The amount you are awarded will depend on your circumstances.

Contact Student Finance England on **0300 100 0607** for further information and an application form.

What funding is available to students on NHS-funded courses?

NHS Childcare Allowance

If you are a health professional student and receive an NHS Bursary, you can apply for help towards your childcare costs through the NHS Childcare Allowance.

The NHS Childcare Allowance can pay up to 85% of your childcare costs, up to a maximum amount. The amount you receive will depend on your personal circumstances.

For more information contact the NHS Student Bursary Helpline on **0300 330 1345**.

For further information on the support available you can also speak to your nursery manager.

The Family and Childcare Trust is the leading national charity in the field of policy, research and advocacy on childcare and family issues, working closely with government, local authorities, businesses and charities to achieve positive and long lasting change for families across the UK. Our vision is a society where all families are well-supported and have genuine choices about their lives.

The Family and Childcare Trust's annual childcare costs survey is the definitive report on childcare costs and sufficiency in the UK and its data are used by the Department for Education.

For further information, please go to www.familyandchildcaretrust.org

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