

CARE TO LEARN

www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn

CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

For help with learning and training



New weekly rates for 2007

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.

HOW CAN CARE TO LEARN HELP ME?



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

IF YOU STARTED LEARNING AFTER YOU REACHED 20, YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE OR LEARNDIRECT ON 0800 100 900.

WHY SHOULD I LEARN?

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

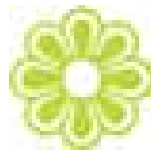
- develop new skills and increase your confidence;
- improve your chances of getting a better job;
- mix with other people and get out and about;
- become more independent; and
- perhaps get new qualifications.



CAN I GET CARE TO LEARN?

You can get Care to Learn if you:

- ✿ are a parent and under 20 when you start learning;
- ✿ 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 in England; and
- ✿ use a registered childcare provider.



WHAT WILL CARE TO LEARN PAY FOR?

We will pay for:

- ✿ childcare costs while you learn, including while you are on placement;
- ✿ childcare costs for extra home/private study time;
- ✿ a childcare deposit (up to £250) if one is charged;
- ✿ a childcare registration fee (up to £80) if one is charged;
- ✿ any necessary childcare fees payable during holidays in order to retain your child's place; and
- ✿ your necessary travel costs to and from your childcare provider.



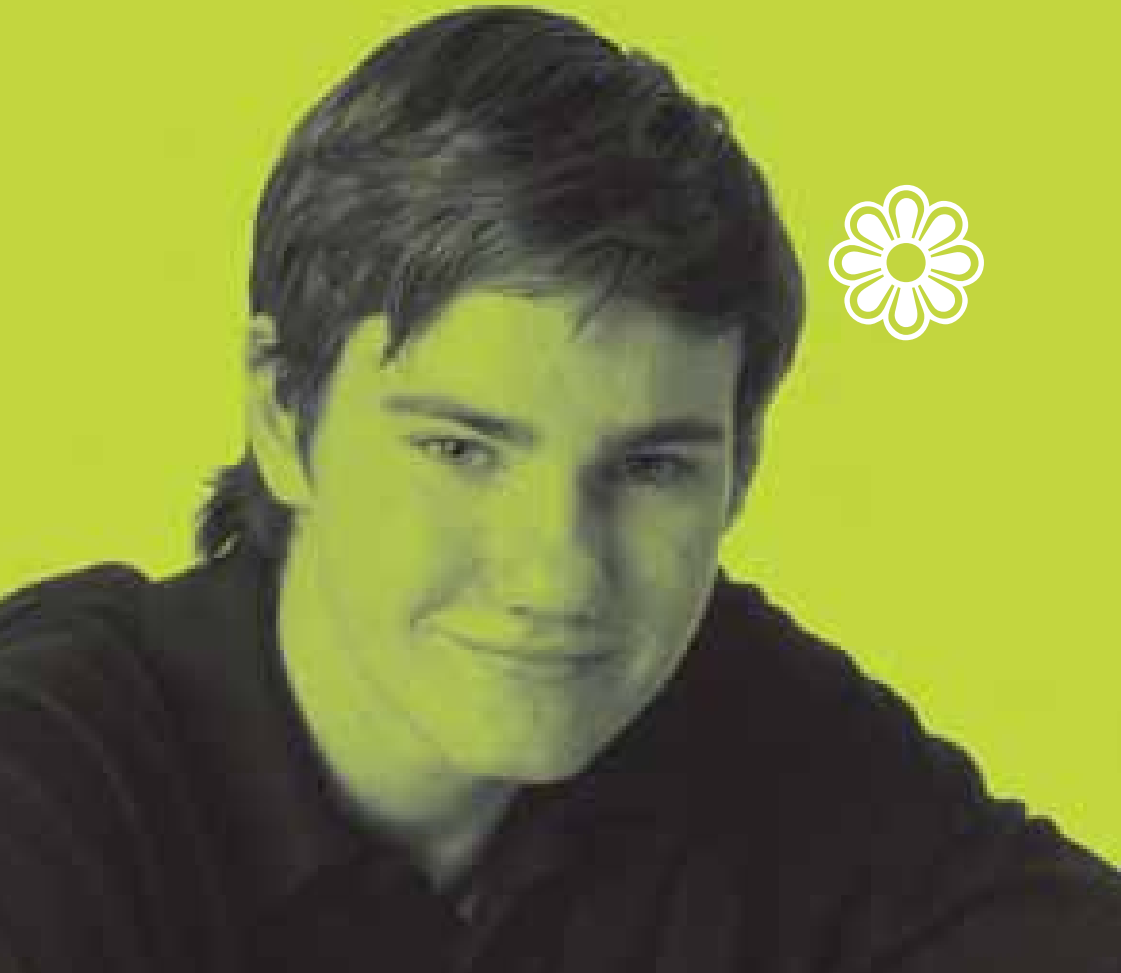
HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

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 August 2007 and are subject to annual review.*



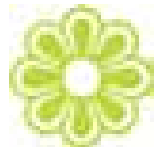
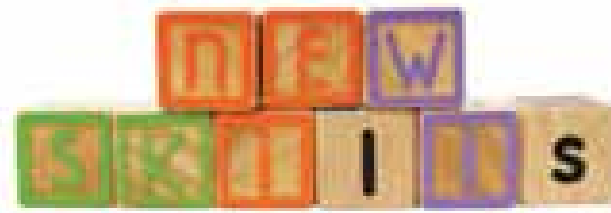
WHAT LEARNING CAN I DO?

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 are a range of different things you could do and we will try and be flexible about how often you need to attend and the times of your course.
-  Not all courses have to run in a college, school or need to be linked to qualifications. Care to Learn will also fund learning opportunities that do not end with a qualification but may 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.
-  Entry to Employment (e2e) includes training in a range of different skills and opportunities that can be tailored to suit you or could lead to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) to prepare you for work.

If you are not sure what type of learning you want to do, contact your local Connexions service. You can find contact details at the back 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 be 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 course 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.

You also **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 Children's 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.

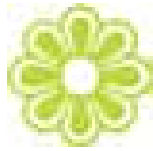


WHAT KIND OF CHILDCARE CAN I USE?

You can use a:

- registered childminder;
- pre-school playgroup;
- day nursery;
- out-of-school club; or
- other registered childcare (such as your college nursery or crèche).

You can only use a parent, relative or friend to provide childcare if they are registered as a childminder.



HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY CHILD WILL BE SAFE?

We will only fund childcare that is registered. All registered childcare is inspected each year to make sure that 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 or someone working with Children's Information Services or local childminding networks can help you to find childcare that suits you. If you want to find childcare yourself, call ChildcareLink on 08000 960296. They will give you details of your local Children's Information Service.



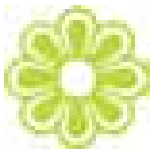
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

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?

You may also receive cash bonuses if you remain on your course and make good progress.

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, call the EMA helpline on 0808 10 16219 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/ema



HOW IS CARE TO LEARN HELPING OTHER LEARNERS?

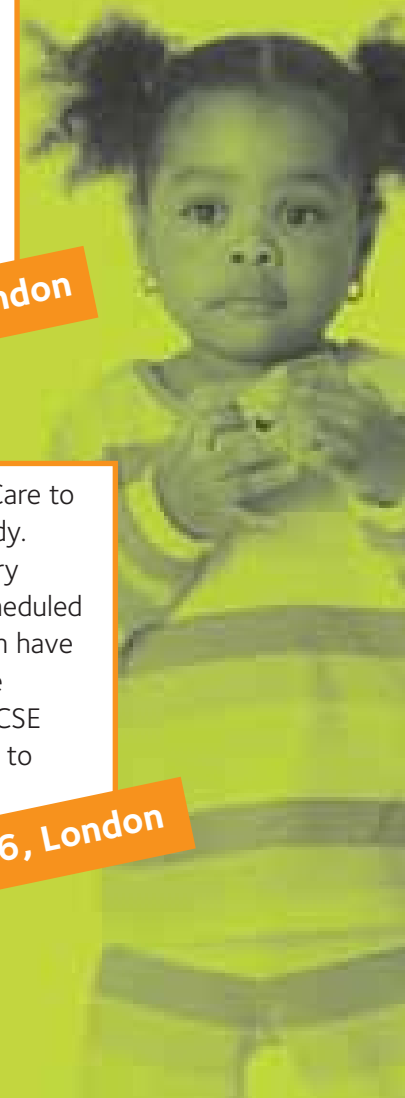


I always wanted to go back and study after I had my baby and Care to Learn helped me do that. I have been able to go back to college and I have recently qualified as a dental nurse. I now have a part-time job and want to go on to be a hygienist or a dentist. Care to Learn gave me the help and support 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 to 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 Co-ordinator 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 co-ordinator visited me, and we started to look for local childminders. I went to visit a few childminders with the co-ordinator. 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 co-ordinator, 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, you should find out about the courses or childcare that are available to you. To help you find out more:

- ✿ contact your local Connexions Personal Adviser or Connexions Direct who can tell you about different types of learning, different kinds of childcare and who else can help;
- ✿ talk to someone at your school or a college. Take this leaflet with you when you ask for help in finding a course; or
- ✿ get in touch with one of the organisations listed at the back of this leaflet.



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



HOW CAN I APPLY FOR CARE TO LEARN?

If you know what learning and childcare you want, you can apply for Care to Learn:

- 🌸 online at www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn;
- 🌸 by asking your local Connexions service for an application form; or
- 🌸 by filling in the form at the back of this leaflet to get an application form sent to you.

If you want to apply online, visit www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn and go to the page called 'For Young Parents' then 'How to apply'. This page will tell you what information you need to provide and how to apply.

If you need help using the internet, speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser, your school, college or training provider.

Alternatively, you can get an application form from your local Connexions service or you can fill in the form at the back of this leaflet to request a written application form.

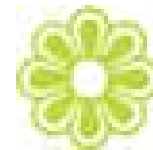
Need any other help or advice?

If you need any other help or advice, call the Care to Learn helpline on 0845 600 2809 or email caretolearn@manchester.gov.uk.

Other sources of information are listed at the back of this leaflet.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once we have received your application form, we will email or send you a letter within five working days telling you if we have approved your application.



WHERE CAN I GET MORE HELP?

For information about careers, learning providers and childcare providers, contact your local Connexions service. You can find their details at www.connexions-direct.com. Use the 'Local Services' link on the home page to find out where your local Connexions service is. Alternatively, you can contact Connexions Direct on 080 800 13219.



Other useful contacts

- 🌸 learndirect – 0800 100 900, www.learndirect.co.uk.
- 🌸 Apprenticeships – 08000 150 600, www.apprenticeships.org.uk.
- 🌸 www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/moneytolearn for information about help with childcare if you are over 19 when you start a course.
- 🌸 Education Maintenance Allowance – 0808 10 16219, www.direct.gov.uk/ema.

General information for young fathers:

- 🌸 Fathers Direct – 0845 634 1328, www.fathersdirect.com.

Help in finding childcare:

- 🌸 ChildcareLink – 08000 960296, www.childcarelink.gov.uk.

For more information about your application form or changing your arrangements, go to www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn, or email caretolearn@manchester.gov.uk, or phone the helpline on 0845 600 2809 (local call rate). Our helpline is open from Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm, and we have friendly people on hand to answer your queries.

If your college is not sure about Care to Learn arrangements, please show them this leaflet or direct them to www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn where they can find a section for learning providers, which has guidance to help them arrange your learning.



Care to Learn

Please complete and send this form if you need an application form.

Your personal details

Surname:	First name(s):
1. <input type="text"/>	2. <input type="text"/>
3. Home address:	4. Telephone numbers:
<input type="text" value="House name/number"/>	<input type="text" value="Home:"/>
<input type="text" value="Street name"/>	<input type="text" value="Mobile:"/>
<input type="text" value="Town/city"/>	
<input type="text" value="Postcode"/>	
5. If you have an email address, please give it here:	
<input type="text"/>	

Remember, you can download an application form online or collect one from your local Connexions service.

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Produced by the Learning and Skills Council

Local contact details:

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Learner Support Directorate

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