Care to Learn Guidance 2026-27

1. Overview

The Care to Learn scheme can help with childcare costs while you study.
You must be aged under 20 at the start of your course.
The scheme is available for publicly-funded courses in England. This includes courses in College.
Claiming Care to Learn will not affect your family's benefits or allowances.

2. What you'll get

You can get up to:

- £180 per child per week if you live outside London
- £195 per child per week if you live in London

Support Can be provided for:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to your childcare provider

Payments

Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before they can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

Travel payments go direct to us, and we will pay you.

When payments stop

Payments end when:

- you stop attending your course
- you reach the end of your course
- your child stops attending childcare

3. Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if:

- you are a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you are 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

**Other residency eligibility applies. Check with our Learner Services team for more information.*

Your course

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

- schools
- 6th forms in schools/colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

WM College will 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

4. How to claim

Tell us if you would like to apply. You will need to give us either:

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