

## **Help With Costs of Childcare**

All text in the colour [blue](#) is a hyperlink and will direct you to the appropriate websites.

The cost of childcare can seem expensive. The Government can help with childcare costs whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support. Take a look at [Childcare Choices](#) a new government website which informs you what help is available towards childcare costs.

### **Early Education for Two Year Olds**

Eligible children can receive funded part-time early years education from the term after their second birthday. Places are available at a variety of childcare providers in [Calderdale](#).

### **Early Education for 3 and 4 Year Olds**

All 3 and 4 year old children can receive up to 15 hours per week of early education for up to 38 weeks a year. It starts the term after their third birthday and we call this the Universal Entitlement. Some children are eligible for an extra 15 hours per week. [Eligibility for 30 hours of childcare](#) which is called the Extended Entitlement.

### **Universal Credit**

You may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit.

### **Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit**

Parents may be able to get extra help with 'registered' or 'approved' childcare costs by claiming the childcare element of working tax credits.

### **Tax-Free Childcare**

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (£2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This is double for children with send. If you get Tax-Free Childcare, the government will pay £2 for every £8 you pay your childcare provider via an online account.

### **Childcare Vouchers**

Ask your employer if they offer a childcare voucher scheme. You can take up to £55 a week of your wages as childcare vouchers, which you do not pay tax or National Insurance on. Childcare vouchers will not be available for new applicants from October 2018 but you can continue to with childcare vouchers if your circumstances don't change.

## **Financial Help if you Have Children**

This includes help when having a baby or adopting, child benefits and tax credits, support for childcare.

- [Maternity pay and leave](#)
- [Shared parental leave and pay](#)
- [Check if you can get leave or pay when you have a child](#)
- [Paternity pay and leave](#)

- [Maternity Allowance](#)
- [Sure Start Maternity Grant](#)

## **Financial Help if you Have a Disabled Child**

- [Help if you have a disabled child.](#)
- [Disability Living allowance \(DLA\) for children.](#)
- [Disabled Facilities Grants.](#)

## **Financial Support if you are Claiming Benefits**

You could get a one-off payment of £500 to help towards the costs of having a child. This is known as a [Sure Start Maternity Grant](#).

Families on certain benefits can get free milk, fruit and vegetables with [Healthy Start Vouchers](#). See if you qualify.

### **[Child Benefit](#)**

You get Child Benefit if you're responsible for one or more children under 16 (or under 20 if they stay in approved education or training). There's no limit to how many children you can claim for.

### **[Apply for Free School Meals](#)**

Check if your child can get free school meals and find out how to apply on your local authority's website.

## **Other Sources of Financial Help**

### **[Child Tax Credit](#)**

You may be able to claim Child Tax Credit if you're responsible for children either:  
Aged 16 or under or under 20 and in eligible education or training.

### **[Working Tax Credit](#)**

You could get Working Tax Credit if either of the following apply:  
You are aged from 16 to 24 and have a child or a qualifying disability or your 25 or over with or without children. You must be in paid work and work a certain number of hours and have an income below a certain level.

### **[Carer's Allowance](#)**

You could get £64.60 a week if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get certain benefits.

### **[Care to Learn](#)**

Care to Learn scheme can help with childcare costs while you study.

## Childcare Grant

You may be eligible for help with your learning costs if you:

- are a full-time higher education student
- have children under 15, or under 17 if they have special educational needs.

## Discretionary Learner Support

You can apply for Discretionary Learner Support to pay for childcare if you're 20 or over and in further education, for example studying for an NVQ, BTEC or PGCE.

## NHS Bursary and Childcare Allowance

In addition to the NHS bursary you may also be able to apply for extra help if you have children.

## Childcare Costs Calculator

Use this calculator to find out how much you could get towards approved childcare.

If you are looking for childcare or would like more information about our service please contact the team at:

Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Team  
Third Floor, Westgate House  
Westgate  
Halifax  
HX1 1PS

Email: [fis@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:fis@calderdale.gov.uk)  
Council Website Link: [www.calderdale.gov.uk](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk)