

Financial help for parents

Raising children and paying for childcare can be an expensive business, but for many parents there is **some** help at hand. This page introduces financial support for childcare - to get an idea of what you might get, see the [Entitled To website](#).

Tax Credits

Nine out of ten families are entitled to tax credits, depending on circumstances.

- **Child Tax Credit** offers support for families with children - you do not have to be working to claim this credit.
- **Working Tax Credit** provides help for working people on low income - families eligible for this credit can also apply for help towards **registered or approved childcare costs**

For further information or call the Tax Credits helpline on (0845) 300 3900 or textphone (0845) 300 3909. You could also go to the Tax Enquiry Centre at 11 Regents Hill, Upper North Street, Brighton and speak to one of their specialist Tax Credit staff.

Sure Start Maternity Grant

This one-off £500 grant is for new parents who are on a low income and is to help with the extra costs of having a baby. For more information visit www.surestart.gov.uk or you can apply for a Sure Start Maternity Grant by completing form SF100 Sure Start from your local Jobcentre Plus office - (01273) 647400 (for Brighton) or (01273) 368100 (Hove)

Free early education

From the term after their **third birthday** until the term in which they turn five, children are eligible for free early education. **To qualify** for the autumn, spring or summer term a child must be 3 years old before 1 September, 1 January, or 1 April respectively. See our [early education page](#) for more information.

Employer supported childcare

Employers can offer employees support with childcare costs by supplying **childcare vouchers** or contracting a childcare provider on your behalf - usually in exchange for part of your salary. For example, Brighton & Hove City Council offers support for employees in partnership with [Sodexo](#).

If your employer offers this type of support you may benefit from the changes to tax and National Insurance Contribution rules- this *could mean* a yearly saving on your childcare

costs of between £915 and £1195, or more if you and your partner both work for employers offering this support. For more information, visit the [HMRC website](#), contact [The Daycare Trust](#) or speak to your HR department.

New Deal for Lone Parents

If you are a lone parent and are thinking of **starting work**, [New Deal for Lone Parents](#) can offer financial help with childcare costs. You can also receive help with the costs of approved vocational training. For **further information** contact the NDLP team on (01273) 647469 (for Brighton) or (01273) 368112 (for Hove).

Financial help for students with children

The **local education authority** administers a range of grants for students in higher education as well as travel grants for students in further education - for advice or an application form see [the student support webpages](#) or call (01273) 293603.

Students in further education needing financial help with childcare should also contact their college for information, if they are not eligible for [Care to Learn](#).

16 year old students may be eligible to claim an [Education Maintenance Allowance](#) - applications should be made through your school or college. For more information you can call the free **EMA** helpline on **(0808) 101 6219**.

More information and advice on financial matters for students can be found on the [Direct Gov website](#).

Child Trust Fund

Giving children a financial head start in life and helping teach them the value of saving - these are the 2 main aims of the Child Trust Fund, a long-term savings and investment account for children. For more information call the CTF helpline on **(0845) 302 1470** or visit the [Child Trust Fund website](#).

Other sources of financial support

The financial support mentioned on this page centres on sources related to childcare. For information on other financial support for families visit your local [jobcentre](#) or the [Department for Work & Pensions website](#) or download our factsheet [Financial help for families \[pdf 165kb\]](#)