

Family Services

Think family

Help paying for Childcare



Information about the financial support available to help pay for childcare
Contact the Wakefield District Families Information Service

Tel: 0800 587 8042

Visit: www.wakefieldfis.org.uk

Email: fis@wakefield.gov.uk

Wakefield District
Families Information
Service

wakefield
City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council



The benefits of good-quality childcare

Childcare benefits all of us: parents, carers, employers, communities and most importantly, children.

High-quality childcare improves the life chances of all children. It brings improvements in children's learning and behaviour, leading to a happier family life and gives them the chance to mix with others from a wide variety of backgrounds, while enabling parents to work and increase the family income.

Childcare for children

Good pre-school education between the ages of 3 and 5 helps children achieve more at school, at primary level and beyond. When high quality pre-school education is combined with learning at home with parents, the results are even better for the child's social and intellectual development.

Childcare providers looking after children under the age of eight have to be registered with Ofsted. Ofsted visits early years settings and makes sure that standards are being met and that children are safe. Parents can get further reassurance from this registration and inspection process and can see published reports at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Childcare for families

Families use childcare for many reasons - to help parents work, look for jobs, train or study, to just take time out and, of course, to help their child's development.

Modern families can be complex, with one or both parents juggling paid employment with looking after the home. This means that high-quality, affordable and appropriate childcare will be increasingly important.

Childcare for the community

Childcare and early years education has benefits for the whole community.

Children's Centres are being set up across the District with a range of activities for young children and their parents.

The help available to pay for childcare

Working Tax Credits

Working Tax Credits support working people (whether employed or self-employed) on low incomes. You can get this if you work at least 16 hours a week and are over the age of 25 (unless you have a child/ren or a disability). Extra payments may also be available for lone parents and disabled workers. The amount of Working Tax Credit you receive will be based on your circumstances, for example how many hours you normally work and your income (or joint income, if you are part of a couple). Working Tax Credit is paid in addition to any Child Tax Credit you may be entitled to.

Childcare Element of Working Tax Credits

As part of Working Tax Credit you may qualify for extra help towards the costs of **registered or approved childcare**. This is known as the Childcare Element of the Working Tax Credit. This is worth up to 80p in tax credit for every £1 a week you spend on registered or approved childcare, up to a maximum of £175 a week if you have one child and up to £300 a week for two or more children.

Tax Credits Calculator

If you would like to know what you might be entitled to, the Families Information Service (FIS) has a useful calculator to inform parents how much help they might receive. It can also tell parents who are thinking about using childcare vouchers how much they might save.

Please contact the Families Information Service on 0800 587 8042.

If you need further advice about the credits or the claim form, contact the Tax Credits Helpline on 0845 300 3900 (text phone 0845 300 3909). Lines are open from 8am - 8pm seven days a week. Or you can contact your local Jobcentre.

This booklet has been produced by Wakefield District Families Information Service on behalf of the Childcare and Market Development Programme, part of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council's Family Services.

It's aim is to let you know about the financial support that may be available to you to help pay for childcare and the benefits of good quality childcare.

If you are looking for childcare, or want more information on what is available in your area, contact the Wakefield District Families Information Service for information about:

- After School Clubs
- Before School / Breakfast Clubs
- Childminders
- Day Nurseries
- Holiday Clubs
- Wraparound Care



Direct Payments for children with a disability or special need

The local authority may offer 'direct payments' to help access childcare if your child or children have a disability or special need.

For more information contact Social Care Direct 0845 8503 503.

Disability Living Allowance

To cover the additional costs of living with a disability the main financial support available to parents is Disability Living Allowance (DLA). You can use the care component of this for childcare costs, which ranges from £17.75 per week to £67 per week depending on the rate.

If you are claiming DLA you may also be able to claim extra support through the disabled child element within Child Tax Credit. For more information contact HMRC on 0845 300 3900

To obtain a DLA claim pack contact the Benefit Enquiry Line on 0800 882 200 (text phone 0800 24 33 55), or contact your local Jobcentre Plus office.

Early Years Education for 3 and 4 year olds

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a free part-time early education place from the term following their 3rd birthday until the term in which they turn 5.

Every child is entitled to 12.5 hours of free early education for 38 weeks per year, rising to 15 hours from 2010 delivered flexibly over a minimum of 3 days.

Contact the Families Information Service on 0800 587 8042 for further details.

Childcare Voucher Scheme

The most common employer supported childcare is the Childcare Voucher Scheme.

Income tax and National Insurance Contribution exemptions on the first £55 a week used towards registered or approved childcare mean that employers and employees make savings.

For more information ask your employer or visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/childcare or contact the Families Information Service on 0800 587 8042.

Employer Supported Childcare

There are other ways employers can support their employees with childcare, for example, through workplace nurseries or direct childcare subsidies.

For more information ask your employer or visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/chidcare

Or if you are an employer and want to know more about how you can support your staff or to receive a free work life balance pack call the Families Information Service on 0800 587 8042.

New Deal for Lone Parents

If you are a lone parent and are thinking of starting work, New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) might be able to offer financial support through the following:

Childcare Help whilst Training

You can receive help with the costs of approved vocational training as well as costs that you incur while you train, such as travel expenses and registered childcare costs of up to a maximum of £175 per week for one child of £300 per week for two or more children.

Childcare Subsidy

If you are a lone parent participating in NDLP and take a job of less than 16 hours per week you may be eligible for childcare subsidy to help with childcare costs whilst you are working. Up to £87.50 per week, or £150 for 2 or more children, is available for up to 52 weeks from the date you start work.

Childcare Assist

If you are a lone parent who is starting a job of at least 8 hours per week you may also be able to claim Childcare Assist which again gives financial help towards the cost of 5 days childcare in the week immediately before you start work.

For further information contact/drop-in at your local Jobcentre Plus, or go online at <http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/customers/programmesandservices>



Parent Direct

If you are a working parent and would like to find out more about your rights to take time-off and for flexible working, Parent Direct Wakefield can provide free up-to-date information about the options available and assist with any paperwork. Contact the Families Information Service on 0800 587 8042.

Care to Learn

- Are you a mum or dad under 20?
- Do you have a child/ren which you have caring responsibilities for?
- Do you want to go into learning or training?

Care to Learn may be able to give you up to £160 per week to pay for registered childcare costs and travel expenses to and from the childcare. It will also pay a trial with one or two different providers (with a £250 limit for a deposit/registration fee).

There are a wide mix of learning and activities you can access including courses in schools or colleges and others.

To qualify you must be living in England however you do not need to be in receipt of benefits. Any benefits claimed by you or your family will not be affected if you receive funding from Care to Learn

For further information call the Care to Learn helpline on: 0845 600 2809 or visit www.dfes.gov.uk/caretolearn

Childcare Grant

The Childcare Grant is there to help full-time students with the cost of childcare during term times and holidays. Any money you get doesn't have to be paid back.

In 2008/2009 the maximum amount available is up to 85% of £175 if you have 1 child or £300 if you have 2 or more children.

You can apply if you are a full-time student, have dependent children under 15 (under 17 years if they have special needs) and they are in registered or approved childcare.

If you, or your partner, get the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit, you won't be able to get the Childcare Grant as well.

You can apply online for the Childcare Grant or Parents' Learning Allowance before or during your course.

Visit <http://www.direct.gov.uk>

Learner Support Funds

If you're a parent aged 20 or over and study at a college of Further Education rather than a school sixth form or sixth form college, you may be able to get help through your college's Learner Support Fund.

Learner Support Funds are available in colleges and school sixth forms to help with learning costs. The funds are prioritised for those who face financial hardship and can be used to help with childcare costs (for Ofsted-registered childcare).

Colleges determine priority groups and maximum amounts they award. If you qualify, payment could be in cash to you or via a third party, or could pay for goods and services. Your payment could be a loan, which you have to pay back; or a grant, which you don't have to pay back.

For more information speak to your student support or welfare officer. You may be expected to provide proof of income or expenditure when you apply.

More Information

If you have any questions about any of the information you have read, or would like information about more general financial help that may be available for families, including:

- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Child Trust Fund
- Healthy Start Vouchers
- In Work Credit
- Help for children at school
- Help for families on a low income
- Help for new mums and pregnant women
- Sure Start Maternity Grant

please contact Wakefield District Families Information Service - details can be found opposite.



How to Contact Us

Call us

Freephone 0800 587 8042
Typetalk calls are welcome

E-mail us

fis@wakefield.gov.uk

Visit our website

www.wakefieldfis.org.uk

Text us

07624 809247

Write to us or call in at

Wakefield District
Families Information Service
County Hall, Bond Street
Wakefield WF1 2QW

Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 5.00pm
Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm

Voicemail is available out of office hours

Outreach

We are also out and about across the District at local Children's Centres and other venues. Call us if you want to know when we will next be in your area or if you would like to arrange a face to face meeting.

If you need this 'Help Paying for Childcare' booklet translated into another language, or another format please complete and return the form below. *Tick box for language required.*

Polish

Jeśli potrzebujesz polskiego tłumaczenia tej broszury, wypełnij i odeślij poniższy formularz.

Farsi

اگر این اطلاعات را به زبانی دیگر و یا در فرمتی دیگر میخواهید لطفاً از ما درخواست کنید

Kurdish

نەگەر دەتەوێت نەم نامیلکەییە بۆ کوردی تەرجومەبکەیت، ئەوا تکایە ئەم فۆرمە ی خوارمۆه پەربکەر مۆه و بێنێز مۆه.

French

S'il faut vous traduire ce livret en français, veuillez remplir le formulaire cidessous et nous le renvoyer.

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے کا ترجمہ اردو زبان میں چاہیے تو مہربانی کر کے نیچے دئے گئے فارم کو پُر کر کے بھیج دیں

Tigrinya

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Please indicate if you would like a copy of this in another language (not listed above) or any of the following formats and send to the freepost address below or telephone 01924 305931:

Large print On audio tape In Braille

Another language, Please state:

Name

Address

Please return this form to: FREEPOST WF 458, Communication & Information Team
Room 238, County Hall, Bond Street, Wakefield WF1 2QL

