

Paying for childcare

There are several different places where you can get help to pay for your childcare if you are working or training.

Below are some of the ways you can receive support -

2 year old funding: Families with 2 year old children who meet a certain criteria can apply for funding for 2 year olds. Somerset County Council will pay for a place for up to 570 hours over the year at a registered childcare provider.

Funding is only available for parents/carers receiving certain benefits, please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals for more information.

Childcare Element of the Working Tax Credit: If you are you aged 16 or over and you and your partner work over 24 hours per week with a household income of under £40,000, you may be entitled to the Childcare Element of the Working Tax Credit. if you're single, you need to do paid work of at least 16 hours a week. To check your eligibility www.hmrc.gov.uk/calcs/ccin.htm

Childcare Vouchers: Childcare Vouchers are available through employers, and offer tax and national insurance exemption on a salary sacrifice to pay for Childcare at a registered childcare setting. There is no upper earnings limit, though higher and additional rate tax payers can claim less. Find out more at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/ir115.pdf>

Care to Learn: If you're under 20 and have one or more children, Care to Learn can help with the cost of your childcare while you're learning. You can find out more at www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn

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Childcare Grant & Parent's Learning Allowance: Full-time students in Higher Education with dependent children aged up to 15 may be able to receive up to 85% of their childcare costs for 52 weeks per year. Find out more at www.gov.uk/childcare-grant & www.gov.uk/parents-learning-allowance

Job Centre Plus: There are many schemes that Job Centre Plus offer to help support parents/carers returning to work. These can include, job grants, work preparation support and childcare subsidies. To find out if you are eligible for support, visit www.gov.uk/moving-from-benefits-to-work/help-for-parents-and-carers

Somerset Advice Network: Your gateway to the advice you need on issues such as Welfare benefits, Finance, Debt, Housing, Family, Employment, and discrimination. Somerset Advice has been set up to make it easier for people to get advice when they need it. www.somersetadvice.net

For more information on childcare and support, please contact Somerset Family Information Directory on 0845 345 9122

www.somersetfid.co.uk



The information contained in this information sheet is for general information purposes only. Every effort has been made to keep the information up to date and correct.

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