

Childcare for 20+ Learners

If applying for help with childcare, the childcare application form must be completed in addition to the student funding application form.

Targeted support will be provided for students who are at risk of not starting learning, or not continuing learning, as a result of difficulty getting childcare due to the cost.

All Colchester Institute childcare awards will be subject to the provider being Ofsted registered. Providers can include nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs and after school clubs

If you are eligible for the financial support, childcare will pay for:

- Time spent in timetabled classes or placement and continued nursery and childminder places during the Christmas, Easter and half term holidays
- Travel time to and from college
- 100% fees for first two children, 50% for third and fourth children. There is no assistance for any other children
- Ofsted registered childcare

Please note that any free government childcare funding must be used for college and placement days before additional hours can be paid for with college funding.

Colchester Institute reserves the right to cap childcare fees if they are considered to be excessive.

Childcare will **not** pay for:

- Deposits, registration fees, make advance payments or be responsible for late payment fees
- Any additional costs incurred as a result of changes in the number of days or hours a child attends their childcare provider, unless previously agreed by the childcare administrator.
- Childcare if there is a partner at home who can look after the child/ children

If a learner withdraws from College or has funding declined because attendance has fallen below 90%, the College will take no responsibility for payment of outstanding fees to childcare providers. Students who withdraw will be liable for any childcare costs incurred after their last day of attendance.

Funding is limited and childcare funding applications received when the fund is low or exhausted may be refused.

Colchester Institute reserves the right to alter or amend the childcare funding policy at any time.

For more information please check the [Adult skills fund: funding rules 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)