

Childcare for 16-20 Learners

Care to Learn 2026/2027

Childcare for students under 20

Applications for childcare must be submitted to the College but funding will be provided under the Care To Learn Scheme up to a maximum of £180 per child per week or up to a maximum of £195 per child per week if the student's home address is in London.

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.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The young parent must be under 20 years old on the date they start their study programme. Young parents who become 20 years old during their study programme
- The young parent must be the main carer and in receipt of Child Benefit for the child they are claiming C2L for (Child Birth Certificate and Child Benefit evidence are required)
- C2L only pays for childcare provision that is registered with Ofsted. Providers can include nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs and after school clubs
- The young parent must exhaust any other government funding for childcare first, such as the 15 hours free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds

C2L 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
- travel costs, where appropriate (if travel by car, the rate is 25p per mile)
- Taster Sessions, deposits (up to a maximum of £250 per child) and registration fees (up to a maximum of £80 per child)
- Ofsted registered childcare

Learner support **may** "top up" childcare costs for 19 year old learners receiving care to learn funding if their costs exceed the weekly maximum rates per child per week for the Care to Learn scheme.

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

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

Childcare will **not** pay for:

- 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 an acceptable rate, 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.

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

For more information please check on:

[Care to Learn academic year 2026 to 2027: conditions of grant funding - GOV.UK](#)