

Childcare for 20+ Learners on ALL

2026/2027

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
- Deposits and registration fees
- 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:

- Childcare for learners aged under 20 years of age on the first day of learning - instead you should apply for the Care to Learn Scheme
- 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
- Informal childcare, such as that provided by a relative
- Top up childcare payments for learners aged under 20 years receiving funding from Care to Learn

If a learner withdraws from College or has funding declined because attendance has fallen to an unacceptable 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.

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 on:

[Advanced learner loans funding and performance management rules: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)