

FE/HE Childcare Funds

How much support can I claim from Discretionary Childcare Funds

- The assessment process is based on need and is means-tested against household income.
- You can apply for support based on your timetable. This would not normally exceed 8 sessions per week, and we would not normally support Directed Study sessions.
- The amount allocated is on a child per day basis.
- The assistance is limited to the College Academic Calendar (36 week period) and student's timetabled days.
- Maximum of £416.66 per week regardless of number of dependent children.
- The total award per student will not exceed £15,000.
- Lone Parent Childcare of £1,215 can be applied for by all eligible lone parents.
- If you are enrolling onto Higher Education (HNC/HND) and not eligible for your tuition fees, you may not be eligible for funding from HE Childcare Funds but may be eligible from HE Discretionary Funds (capped at £3,000).
- You will be liable for all childcare costs until you have been offered an award from South Lanarkshire College.

Am I eligible for support from the Childcare Fund?

To receive Childcare support, you must:

- Have a dependent child or be responsible for a child (supporting documentation may be required)
- Be in receipt of Child Tax Credit/Child Support included with Universal Credit
- Have accessed all eligible funding available to you (You must have applied for and be in receipt of all available funding e.g., FE (Further Education) Bursary, SAAS/Student Loan before you may be considered eligible for support).
- Have a childcare provider registered with the Care Inspectorate.
- You will not receive Childcare support if:
 1. You have a household income above £38,000.
 2. You have a spouse or partner who is at home during college hours and is able and available to look after your child/children.
 3. Your childcare provider is not registered with the Care Inspectorate.

External/Private Childcare Providers

Every student will be required to complete an External Childcare Provider Form if they are using a third-party provider. This includes any childcare provider other than the College's preferred partner Happitots (Thrive)

- Childcare providers must be registered with the Care Inspectorate.
- Childcare will be assessed for a maximum of 36 weeks. The College does not pay for 6 weeks of College Holidays which are October (1 week), Christmas (3 weeks) and Easter (2 weeks).
- Childcare will be paid in arrears, direct to childcare provider.
- Childcare is capped at a maximum of £15,000 per academic session, regardless of number of dependents.
- A childcare remittance will be issued to the child carer's email address to confirm scheduled instalments.
- Students are required to appropriately engage with their studies and attend all classes where possible. Payments will be withheld if

attendance falls below satisfactory levels (80%).

- Any changes to the student's childcare contract must be provided to the Student Funding Team.
- The College will only liaise with the childcare provider with the permission of the student. (Students must complete a Third-Party Authorisation Form which can be downloaded from the portal).
- Students are liable for any notice period requested by childcare providers.
- A contract does not exist between the College and the Childcare Provider.

How do I apply?

You can apply for Discretionary Childcare Funding via your online student portal <https://homepage.slc.ac.uk/>

You must fill this form out as early as possible with all supporting documentation to ensure you receive the support.

We will not be able to process your application until we have confirmation of your timetable.

Happitots (Thrive) is the preferred partner of South Lanarkshire, however, you may also use an External Childcare Provider, if you prefer. If you require any help and support, please email: funding@slc.ac.uk