

Services for Young Children

Parents/ Carers Update – March 2022

Included this month: Accessing 30 Hours Childcare/ Tax-Free Childcare, benefit rate increases, Healthy Start vouchers, bereavement support



Important! Accessing 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare, or wanting to apply to start in April 2022?

If your child is receiving 30 hours childcare or Tax-Free Childcare make sure you re-confirm your information; or apply for the funding **before the 31**

March 2022 to ensure that your child receives their entitlement with no gaps or delays from April 2022.

To re-confirm* or apply, visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

*Parents who already access the funding must check their childcare account to re-confirm.

Benefit Rate Increases

From 11 April 2022, most benefits rates will increase by 3.1%

- Child benefit is set to increase from £21.15 to £21.80 for the 1st child and from £14.00 to £14.45 for any other children.
- Universal Credit and Tax Credit are also increasing by 3.1%.
- Carer's Allowance will be £69.70 with the earnings threshold expected to be £132.



From 11 April 2022, statutory rates for maternity, paternity, adoption and shared parental pay will be £156.66 with average earnings for eligibility £123. For more detailed information on this see [benefit rates page](#)



Healthy Start Vouchers

The Healthy Start voucher paper scheme is ending soon. You must reapply to the new Healthy Start card scheme online as soon as possible as paper vouchers will no longer be issued from 31 March 2022. If you have paper vouchers you can use them until the expiry date printed on them.

Benefits of the Healthy Start prepaid card scheme include:

- any money you do not spend will remain on your card and can be put towards healthy food and milk in the future
- you can check your balance which helps with money management
- your payment will be automatically added to your card

You can [apply for the digital scheme here](#):

If you have a query about your Healthy Start card you can telephone the Healthy Start helpline: 0300 330 2090 or look at the FAQs on the [Healthy Start website](#).

Bereavement Support from Care for the Family

Coping with the pain and heartache of a close bereavement is always difficult – not least when it's accompanied by a sense of loneliness and a feeling that no one understands. Care for the Family offer a range of support from their website and Careline, to special events. For further details visit [Bereavement support - Care for the Family](#)

