

# Benefits and Entitlements- young parents

A young person's guide - Bridgend

Resource 8 of 12

You may also like to read these resources:

- Benefits and Entitlements
- Benefits and Entitlements- education
- Budgeting
- Money- I need some!
- Money- putting money aside
- Food Shopping Tips

# BENEFITS AND GRANTS

## What you could get (2023/2024)

Child Benefit (1st child)    **£24.00** per week  
Child Benefit (2nd child etc) **£15.90** per week  
Sure Start Maternity Grant    **£500**



It can be a very challenging but rewarding time being a new parent. Here you will find information about what support is available.

## Child Benefit

- As soon as your child is born, you can claim child benefit.
- You receive a monthly payment
- This is from birth until aged 16 (or 20 if they stay in education)

This is where you will find the form that needs to be filled in

<https://www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant/how-to-claim>



## Sure Start Maternity Grant

- If you are about to have your child and are on benefits, you may be able to claim this grant.
- You need to claim 11 weeks before birth OR within 6 months of the birth
- You need a health professional to sign your application

## Bridgend Pathways

You may be entitled to financial support from the Bridgend Pathways team. They offer advice and guidance on training, education and work experience.

<https://www.bridgendpathways.co.uk/>

To apply go to the website below:

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>



## Healthy Start Vouchers

- These are vouchers to help towards the cost of fruit, vegetables and milk for your child
- You can apply for these if you are on certain benefits AND
- You are pregnant or your child is under 4 years old.



# CHILDCARE SUPPORT

## Wellbeing

- Being a new parent is stressful
- Keeping a positive frame of mind is important
- There is likely to be support available through local mum and baby groups
- For tips on maintaining your mental health and wellbeing:
- <https://platform.org/project/young-people/>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://gov.wales/parenting-give-it-time>



If you are a young parent and are looking to find work, finding childcare could be difficult. Here we highlight what support may be available.

## Flying Start

This is a project to support families in certain areas of Wales.

- It can offer 2.5 hours of childcare per day for most of the year
- For when your child is 2 or 3 years old
- They can also offer other support such as parenting classes
- You have to live in a particular postcode area

To find out more speak to your health visitor



To find out more go to:  
<https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>  
or speak to your personal advisor

## Family Information Service

- Each local authority has a Family Information Service.
- This provides advice and support around a number of parenting issues and could advise you about what childcare support you may be entitled to.

For more information:

Bridgend Family Information Service

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/children-and-young-people/family-information-service/>

## Childcare while studying

If you are thinking of going to University, you may be able to apply for some money for childcare. This typically depends on:

- The amount of money you have coming in
- What benefits you are on
- The age of your child
- The type and length of your course

## Childcare while in work

- If you are getting Universal Credit you can receive up to 85% of the cost of childcare back.
- This could be up to £646.35 per month for one child (correct as of May 2023)
- **HOWEVER** you have to pay for childcare up front and then claim it back

### School Uniform Grant

If your child gets free school meals, you could get up to £125 for each application.

This covers:

- Uniform and sports kit
- Equipment for out of school hours trips
- Equipment for some school activities

YOUR  
CHILD IN  
SCHOOL



Is your child about to start school? Like everything else, this can cost money. However you could receive some support

## Free School Meals

The Welsh Government has committed to providing free school meals for all primary school age children by 2024. In the meantime, or if your child is of comprehensive school age if you are getting certain benefits and your income is below a certain amount you will be able to claim free school meals.

- This ensures your child gets a healthy, nutritious, cooked meal each day
- Your child's school will also receive more money from Welsh Government to support your child.



To apply for free school meals go to:  
<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/grants-for-pupils/free-school-meals-fsm/>

## School essential Grant

If you receive free school meals, you will also be able to get a pupil development grant.

This will be to cover uniform and PE kit and things like laptops and school bags. It is £225 for years 1 to 11, excluding year 7 where it is increased to £300.

To apply for a pupil development grant go to:  
<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/grants-for-pupils/school-essentials-grant/>

## Free Breakfast

- The local authority primary schools in your area should provide a free breakfast
- Schools provide a healthy and nutritious breakfast before the start of the school day.
- For more information speak to your child's school

