

# Independent Advice is available from your local Citizens Advice Bureaux

## Bishop's Stortford

Methodist Church  
34B South Street  
Bishop's Stortford  
CM23 3AZ

## Stevenage

Sixth Floor  
Daneshill House  
Danestrete  
Stevenage  
SG1 1BY

## Buntingford

Manor House  
High Street  
Buntingford  
SG9 9AB

## Hertford

Sele Community Hub  
18 Fleming Crescent  
HERTFORD  
SG14 2DJ

## Hertfordshire telephone advice line

**03444 111 444**  
10am-4pm Monday - Friday  
[www.ehcas.org.uk](http://www.ehcas.org.uk)

## Information

If you would like a translation of this document in another language, large print, Braille, audio, or electronic, please contact us:

### For East Herts Council

01279 655261 Tuesdays

- Wallfields, Hertford, 10am-2pm. Wednesdays -  
Bishop's Stortford Library, 10am-1.30pm. Thursdays -  
Wallfields, Hertford, 10am-2pm.  
Fridays - Bishop's Stortford Library, 10am-1.30pm.

### For Stevenage Borough Council

01438 242440

Customer Services Centre,  
Daneshill House, Stevenage,  
Herts SG1 1HN Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Email: [benefits@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk)

[www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk) [www.stevenage.gov.uk](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk)

We will provide signers, lipspeakers and deaf blind interpreters by appointment.

(We need to see original documents. If you visit our office we will verify and copy your documents for you)

# Benefits: Help with Child Care Costs

The Benefits Service,  
Council Offices, Wallfields, Pegs Lane  
Hertford SG13 8EQ

SBC Tel: 01438 242440

EHC Tel: 01279 655261



## HELP with child care costs

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support rules include help for people who have to pay child care costs.

If you receive Tax Credits, the child care costs you pay may also be taken into account.

The assistance is in the form of a “disregard” of up to £175.00 per week of earnings per family when child care charges are paid for one child, or up to £300.00 per week, when charges are paid for two or more children.

## Who can qualify?

The disregard will apply where a claimant is:

- A lone parent in paid work for more than 16 hours per week.
- A member of a couple, both of whom are in paid work, more than 16 hours per week.
- A member of a couple where one is in paid work for more than 16 hours per week and the other is “incapacitated”.

“Incapacitated” means disabled or blind and getting certain benefits.

## What child care costs count?

The disregard applies to children only until the first Monday in September after their 15th birthday (16th birthday if disabled).

The care must be provided by either:-

- A registered childminder.
- A registered nursery.
- For children aged 8 and over, but under 15 (16 if disabled), care provided by a local authority.
- A child care scheme exempt from registration.

## How much?

For Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support, average weekly childcare costs are calculated through the year and costs of up to £300.00 per week are “disregarded” from income. The maximum childcare disregard for one child is £175.00 per week.

## How to find out if you qualify?

If you receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, contact East Herts Benefit Service **NOW!**

You will be asked to provide proof of the childminder’s registration.

### Example 1

Family with one child whose 15th birthday (16th if child is disabled) is on 30 June 2005, relevant child care charges of £170.00 per week are incurred.

A disregard of £170.00 per week applies until 5 September 2005, from 6 September the disregard will no longer apply.

### Example 2

Family with two children, aged 14 and 9. Child care costs of £210.00 per child, per week are paid - a total of £420.00 per week.

A disregard of £300.00 per week applies. Note: The maximum disregard applies to the total relevant child care charges incurred, not for each child.

### Example 3

Family with two children, aged 10 and 16. Child care charges of £200.00 per week are incurred (£120.00 for the younger child and £80.00 for the older child).

Disregard of £175.00 applies. Relevant childcare charges are incurred for only one child as the second child is not of qualifying age.

## What if I do not get Benefit now?

If you do not already receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support and you are paying for child care and you think you may qualify, why not apply?

## Don’t delay - claim today

For a Housing Benefit or a Council Tax Support claim form:

Visit our website at  
[www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)  
[www.stevenage.gov.uk](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk)

Fax: 01992 531442

Email us at [benefits@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk)