



Support from the Start and Carefree Kids Bursary Scheme enabling young children to participate in local clubs and activities

Background

A child's early years experiences are crucial to a child's development and one of our aims is to address inequalities that exist locally by giving children positive experiences so they develop a sense of belonging, become effective contributors and successful learners, along with their families contributing to their local community and feeling included.

Support from the Start is committed to supporting young children's participation in local classes, regardless of family economic factors.

Support from the Start, in partnership with Carefree Kids, has set up a bursary scheme for families of children age 0 to 8 years old.

What can the bursary be used for?

- The bursaries are for families with children aged 0-8 years who wish to attend classes/clubs/playgroup or organisations in the **local area**, for example ballet, gymnastics, Brownies, dancing, swimming or Enjoyaball etc...
- Some organisations may already offer their own bursary schemes, or offer discretionary places, so it's worth checking before applying for one of our bursaries.

Who can apply?

- Children must be 0-8 years old and live in the Dunbar, Haddington, Prestonpans, Tranent or Musselburgh Cluster area.
- Parents must be in receipt of family tax credits with an annual income below £16,105 and **referred** by either their Health Visitor, Social Worker, Head teacher or Community Development Officer or a related professional, for consideration.
- Playgroup Bursary – families must confirm that they are not entitled to 600 hours priority place for 2 year olds.

How to apply?

- The professional who is referring the child should contact Paula Edmond, Project Manager, Carefree Kids, 9 Elphinstone Road, Tranent, EH33 2LG to obtain a referral form - paula.edmond@carefreekids.org.uk / Phone: (01875) 613133
- The referrer needs to find out details about the class /club or organisation the child wishes to join.
- See documentation as proof of the family's annual income/ eligibility.
- Then return the completed form to the Administrator.



How will it be paid?

- Once the referral form has been submitted, a cheque will be issued to the parent made payable directly to the organisation the child wishes to participate in. The intention is that the bursary will cover a child attending classes for 1 academic term, with the possibility, depending on availability of a further term.
- An Attendance record slip will be issued to the parent when the bursary is awarded and this should be retained by the parent and completed by the parent and a representative from the organisation at the end of the term, to show that the child is attending that class. This record needs to then be returned to the Administrator.
- If a child wishes to stop attending the class, the parent must return the Attendance record as soon as possible, stating the reasons why the child is leaving. By doing this the bursary may then be awarded to another child, if needed.

The Future of the Bursary Scheme

In the future we hope to develop the Scheme further by encouraging Local Businesses, Charities and local organisations to get involved and help support this Scheme.

Further Information

For further information please contact:

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