



Carefree Kids & Support from the Start Bursary Scheme allowing young children's participation in Local Clubs and activities.



Background

A child's early years experiences are crucial to a child's development and one of our aim 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. So 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 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.
- Parents must be in receipt of family tax credits with an annual income below £15,860 and **referred** by either their Health Visitor, Head teacher or Community Development Officer or a related professional, for consideration.
- One bursary application per family.

How to apply?

- The professional who is referring the child, needs to contact Paula Edmond, project manager at Carefree Kids, 56, High Street, Tranent to obtain a referral form either by email paula.edmond@carefreekids.org.uk
- Telephone: 01875 616618
- 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. They will be issued with a Reference Number and Attendance Record slip, which the parent will need to retain and complete before further funds will be released.



How many Bursaries are available?

- This is a pilot scheme, so there are limited bursaries available for the year apportioned.

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 year and should cover a course of classes costing around £5, a week, over a year based on blocks of 10 week classes per term, for 30 weeks in total.
- 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 weekly, to show that the child is attending that class. This record needs to be returned to the Administrator before the next terms fees can be issued.
- 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

As mentioned the funding for this bursary has been provided by Support from the Start for 1 year. In the future we hope to develop it further by encouraging local Businesses, Charities and local organisations to get involved and help support this Local Bursary Scheme, when they see the benefits it provides children in East Lothian.