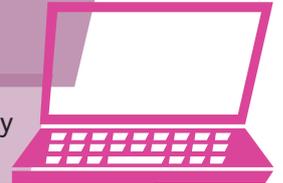


10 steps from child free to child friendly



1. Colleges/universities should collect data on students' family circumstances at enrolment and provide this information to departments, the students' association and student support to ensure that student parents are visible and steps can be made to provide support to them.

2. College/university website should dedicate a page to student parents where they provide clear information on the support, representation and facilities available.



3. Colleges/universities should take account of the specific caring responsibilities of student parents and be prepared to take extra steps to address these needs.



4. Family life should be taken into consideration when developing timetabling and attendance monitoring. Timetables should be provided well in advance. Students' associations should work with their institution to support parents during school holidays, by looking at events that will allow students with older children to continue with lectures or study time.

5. Establish a representation system linking together departments, student support, students' associations and college/university management, to ensure the interests of student parents are discussed and dealt with.

6. Establish child-friendly areas in college/university buildings and create a programme of activities, in partnership with the college/university, for parents and their children throughout the year. Baby-changing and breast-feeding facilities should be provided. As much of the campus as possible should be accessible by children accompanied by a responsible adult.

7. Colleges/universities should ensure that, where accommodation is provided, it is affordable and suitable for families. Institutions should work with local landlords and social housing to make sure that there is affordable accommodation within the locality.



8. Colleges/universities should provide affordable childcare facilities for student parents where possible. Where this is not possible, institutions should work in partnership with childcare centres in the community to secure subsidised childcare for students. Where institutions have well-established childcare facilities, they should offer the facilities to the local community as well as to students and staff.

9. Extend funding for student parents including grants, childcare vouchers/subsidies and emergency loans for family crises. Colleges/universities should also consider providing financial advice specifically focused around childcare and family issues.

10. Colleges/universities should be public spaces at the centre of their communities. Institutions should expand links with local schools, nurseries, and community groups. They should increase activities for the involvement of children and young people in the community (open days, art competitions, sports, come and try sessions etc.).

