

## Dear Colleague

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2007 from Sodexo Pass, your childcare voucher provider. The aim of the bi-annual newsletter is to present you with all the relevant news concerning childcare vouchers including the implications of this year's budget.

## In This Issue:

- [The Budget](#)
- [Eldercare](#)
- [Childcare Costs](#)
- [Emergency Childcare](#)
- [Carers Count](#)
- [\\*\\*\\*STOP PRESS\\*\\*\\*](#)

## Budget – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007

Following the budget on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, we can confirm that no changes have been made that will affect your current childcare voucher scheme. A summary of the important points are detailed below:

- Amount of salary an employee can sacrifice remains at £55 per week or £243 per calendar month.
- A Change to the basic rate of income tax (from 22 pence to 20 pence) will come into effect in April 2008.
- Increasing the threshold for Working Tax Credits by £1,200 to £6,420 in April 2008.
- From 2009, there will be changes to National Insurance bands.
- Weekly amount of child benefit, for a first child, will rise from £17.45 a week to £20 a week by 2010.



## Eldercare

With an increasingly ageing population and a shrinking workforce, the UK is heading towards an eldercare crisis. There are currently an estimated three million unpaid carers juggling work and caring for an elderly or disabled relative. In the future this is likely to increase as it has been predicted that by 2040 the ratio of over 65's to working adults will equal 2:1.\*

An introduction of tax breaks for working carers or those financially responsible for elderly or disabled relatives would ease the financial burden associated with care and make it more accessible and affordable.

If you wish to register your support for the introduction of eldercare vouchers go to:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/CARERSTAXBREAK>

Please forward this link on to all of your colleagues.

\*(BBC July 1999)

## Childcare Costs

Research from The Daycare Trust has shown that the cost of childcare is increasing year on year. The average cost of a nursery place for a child under two outside of London is now £152 a week. This increases to an average of **£180** in the South East and London. \*\*

You can help your employees with their childcare costs by ensuring they are aware of the **maximum** benefits they can receive from childcare vouchers. A parent can sacrifice up to **£243** per month, this means if both parents sacrifice the full amount they can save up to **£2,390 per year**. Also make sure that **new employees** are fully aware of the scheme that you offer. For further information for on childcare vouchers, please visit

[http://www.childcarechoice.co.uk/download\\_section.html](http://www.childcarechoice.co.uk/download_section.html)

To find out more please email us at: [customercare@sodexhopass.co.uk](mailto:customercare@sodexhopass.co.uk).

\*\* (Daycare Trust: 30 January 2007)

 **emergencychildcare.co.uk**

A typical working parent suffers a “childcare breakdown”, when their existing childcare arrangements fail, 9 times a year.\*\*\* An organisation that has a back up childcare solution in place will benefit across the board; less absenteeism, improved retention, better perception, and a more motivated workforce.

Sodexo Pass has a strategic partnership with Emergency Childcare, the answer for organisations that wish to put a back up childcare solution in place for their employees. It allows employees to book emergency childcare with as little as half an hour notice, while retaining the financial benefits of using their Childcarepass childcare vouchers.

*Emergencychildcare.co.uk* is the UK's leading chain of childcare agents for parents and childcarers. They have more branches and carers than anyone else and have 25 years experience of sourcing the best childcare. Employees not using vouchers can also use the service; payment can simply be made with a credit card.

Registration is currently free of charge. To sign up to Emergency Childcare go to:

[www.emergencychildcare.co.uk/sodexhopass](http://www.emergencychildcare.co.uk/sodexhopass)

\*\*\* (DTI/ Daycare Trust Study & BH Childcare Trends study 2002)



With our clients and their staff saving money through tax and National Insurance exemptions Sodexo Pass feels it only fair to also reward carers for accepting Sodexo Pass childcare vouchers.

Carers Count is an online scheme that allows carers to collect points simply by accepting Sodexo Pass childcare vouchers. The more vouchers they accept the more points they accrue. These points can then be exchanged for SayShopping gift vouchers, which can be redeemed at over 12,000 retail outlets across the UK.

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The new Welsh Childcare Approval Scheme is now live

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More information can be found here

<http://www.childcareapprovalschemewales.co.uk/>

### **Feedback**

Sodexo Pass is always keen to hear your views and opinions on the newsletter, the service we provide or the childcare voucher market as a whole.

If you have any comments or issues you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to contact us at [marketing@sodexhopass.co.uk](mailto:marketing@sodexhopass.co.uk)

We wish you a very happy spring holiday.  
From The Sodexo Pass Childcare team.

