

Austria

Distinctive Features: Emphasis on value of family work; generous child allowance.

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Cash benefit and job-protected leave
Eligibility Criteria	Working mother; working parents
Duration of Leave	Maternity Leave: 16 weeks compulsory; Parental Leave: Up to 2 years ¹
Compensation Rate	Maternity Leave: 100% wage replacement. Parental Leave: Flat rate (404 Ecus per month).

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	0-6
Eligibility Criteria	Working Parents
Locus of Care	0-3 (centers), 3-6 (preschools)
Fees	Parents pay income-related fees
Funding Strategies	State and local govt., parent fees
Access/Coverage (%)	0-3 (3%), 3-6 (80%)

Family and Child Allowances

Benefit & Eligibility	Universal cash benefit for families w/ children under age 19.
Benefit Levels	Varies by age and number of children. Very generous benefits, higher for older children.

Child Support

Benefit	Maintenance payments guaranteed if absent parent fails to pay.
Maintenance	Formula: 16% of earnings for children ages 0-5, 18% 6-10, 20% 11-15, 22% 15+

Child and Family Tax Benefits

Tax Deductions/Relief	Refundable child tax credit that is higher for each subsequent child.
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Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Survivor's Benefits, social assistance
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Child and Adolescent Health

Access to Coverage	National health insurance program covers virtually entire population
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School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School	Ages 6 – 15
School Hours	8:00 – 12:00 or 13:00

Youth Policies

Distinctive Features	Concern about youth risk-taking behaviors (e.g. smoking, alcohol, drugs); sex education as an explicit federal policy goal.
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¹ 1½ years for either parent, but two years if father takes at least 6 months.