

Finland

Distinctive Features: Explicit family policy; generous benefits; high social protection expenditures; universalism; strong commitment to equality

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Maternity, Paternity, Parental, & Child-rearing: Cash benefit and job-protected leave
Eligibility Criteria	Maternity: universal for all mothers; Parental: universal. Child-rearing universal, can combine with part-time work.
Duration of Leave	Maternity: 18 weeks; Paternity: 6-12 days plus 6 days; Parental 26 weeks; child-rearing until child is age 3.
Compensation Rate	Maternity: 25-70% of wages for working parents depending on annual wage; flat rate for unemployed parents; child-rearing low flat rate. Minimum cash benefit if no work history. Pension credit for time at home caring for child under 3.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	0 – 7
Eligibility Criteria	Universal
Fees	Income-related parent fees vary by family size; free for low-income families
Locus of Care	Municipal or private centers, family day care homes, and own home (with home-care allowance)
Funding Strategies	Government and parent fees. Parent fees meet 10% of costs.
Access/Coverage (%)	Ages 0 – 3 (48%); Ages 3 – 6 (73%). Govt. guarantee of space.

Family and Child Allowances

Benefit & Eligibility	Universal tax-free cash benefit for all residents with children under 17
Benefit Level	Vary by the child's ordinal position; small supplement for children of lone parents

Child Support

Benefit	Tax-free maintenance payments guaranteed if absent parent fails to pay.
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Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Survivor's benefits; child allowance for disabled children; child supplements to unemployment insurance
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Child and Adolescent Health

Access to Coverage	Universal coverage through system that combines a smaller private social insurance system and an extensive public sector health services program
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Housing Benefits

Benefit	Housing allowances provided to low-income families who rent or own standard housing; special housing allowance for students.
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School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School	7 – 16; all children in all educational institutions have a daily hot meal. Most 6s in a pre-school class.
School Hours	19 – 21 hours per week for the first two years; 23 – 25 hours per week for the third and fourth year.