

France

Distinctive Features: Explicit family policy; generous cash benefits, both universal and income-tested; emphases on social justice, parental choice, and early childhood education and care (ECEC) services.

Maternity / Parental Leave

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| Benefit | Cash benefit and job-protected leave |
| Eligibility Criteria | Maternity: working mothers, universal; Parental: working parents, 2 or more children; income tested. |
| Duration of Leave | Maternity: 16 weeks for first 2 children, longer for subsequent children. Paternity: 3 days. Parental: up to 3 years. |
| Compensation Rate | Maternity: 100% of wages; Parental: Unpaid for first child, flat rate for + children |
| Other Leaves | Adoption leave and sick child care leave. |

Early Childhood Education and Care

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| Age Group Served | <i>Ecole Maternelle</i> : 2-6; <i>Creche</i> : 3 months to 3 years. |
| Eligibility Criteria | <i>Ecole Maternelle</i> : universal; <i>Creche</i> : working parents or w/ special needs. |
| Fees | <i>Ecole Maternelle</i> : free; <i>Creche</i> : income-related parent fees, max. 25% of costs |
| Locus of Care | <i>Ecole Maternelle</i> : preschools; <i>Creche</i> : centers, FDC homes. |
| Funding Strategies | <i>Ecole Maternelle</i> : Govt.; <i>Creche</i> : Mix of govt, family allowance funds, parent fees |
| Access/Coverage (%) | <i>Ecole Maternelle</i> : 99%; <i>Creche</i> : 0-3 (35%) |

Family and Child Allowances

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| Benefit & Eligibility | Universal cash benefit for each child beginning with the second up to age 19; Multiple income-tested categorical benefits. |
| Benefit Levels | Basic benefit: Formula based on the number and age of children. |

Child Support

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| Benefit | Guaranteed minimum support |
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Child and Family Tax Benefits

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| Tax Deductions/Relief | Family unit is filing unit. Child care tax credit |
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Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

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| Benefits | Single-parent allowances, means-tested |
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Child and Adolescent Health

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| Access to Coverage | Universal coverage through national health insurance system. Extensive free maternal and child health services. |
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Housing Benefits

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| Benefit | Housing allowances |
| Eligibility Criteria | Income-tested |

School-Age Children Policies

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| Compulsory School | Ages 6 – 16 |
| School Hours | 8:30 – 4:00 or 4:30 |

Youth Policies

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| Distinctive Features | Mandatory sex education, school-based counseling and contraceptive services. |
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