

Italy

Distinctive Features: Categorical, decentralized and targeted social policies; greater responsibility at regional or municipal levels than at the national level; extensive universal early childhood education and care (ECEC) for 3 – 6 year-olds.

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Cash benefit and job-protected leave
Eligibility Criteria	Working mothers
Duration of Leave	5 months mandatory (2 before birth, 3 after); + 6 months optional supplementary
Compensation Rate	80% of wages; additional 6 months at 30%

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	<i>Scuola Materna</i> (Preschool): 3 -6; <i>Asilo Nido</i> (child care): 3 months - 3 years.
Eligibility Criteria	<i>Scuola Materna</i> : universal; <i>Asilo Nido</i> : working parents
Locus of Care	<i>Scuola Materna</i> : preschool; <i>Asilo Nido</i> : centers
Costs	<i>Scuola Materna</i> : free; <i>Asilo Nido</i> : income-related, max 20% of costs
Funding Strategies	<i>Scuola Materna</i> : National govt. <i>Asilo Nido</i> : Local govt. and parent fees.
Access/Coverage (%)	<i>Scuola Materna</i> : 95%. <i>Asilo Nido</i> : 6%.

Family and Child Allowances

Eligibility	Income-tested cash benefit; employment-related; provided for children up to 18.
Benefit Levels	Benefit varies according to family size and income (among least generous in Europe)

Child and Family Tax Benefits

Tax Deductions/Relief	Non-refundable tax credit for children.
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Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Survivor's Benefits
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Child and Adolescent Health

Access to Coverage	Universal coverage for children up to 12; national health service income-tested for older children and youth
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School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School	Ages 6 – 14
School Hours	Varies by region, mainly 9:00 – 15:00