

Sweden

Distinctive Features: Explicit family policies; universalism; gender equality; strong link with employment; generous benefits; quality early education and care (ECEC) services; exemplary parental leave policies.

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Cash benefit and job-protected leave; includes adoption; paternity, 2 weeks
Eligibility Criteria	All parents; mothers can begin 7 weeks before birth and remain on leave up to 7 weeks after birth, even without custody of child.
Duration of Leave	18 months (can be extended with pro-rated benefit)
Compensation Rate	First year – 80% of wages, + three months at flat rate, + three months unpaid

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	0 – 6
Eligibility Criteria	Universal: working parents or student parents
Fees	Income-related parent fees
Locus of Care	Ages 1-3: Centers and Family Day Care Homes; Ages 3-6: Centers
Funding Strategies	National and local government, parent fees
Access/Coverage (%)	75% of children ages 1 – 6.

Family and Child Allowances

Eligibility	Universal – All residents with children under age 16
Benefit Levels	750 SEK per month – approximately \$100 (1998)

Child Support

Benefit	Minimum amount guaranteed by government
Maintenance Rate	Proportion of Standard Monthly Amount: Ages 0-6 (65%), Ages 7-12 (80%), Ages 13+ (95%).

Other Child Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Survivor's Benefits; social assistance
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Child Health

Access to Coverage	Universal, free health care for all. Special services for pregnant mothers and children under age 5.
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Housing Benefits

Benefit	Housing allowance and rent payments
Eligibility Criteria	Income-tested

School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School	Ages 7 – 16
School Hours	Varies by region, system, and education level.

Youth Policies

Distinctive Features	Special efforts to provide access to services related to sexual activity and contraception
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