

# TGS Child and Family Resources

Graduate students who are parents may take advantage of many resources offered by Northwestern, listed below.

## Family Resource Liaison

Lesley Lundeen, the TGS Family Resource Liaison, is available to provide assistance, advice, and connections to help you balance navigating academia and family responsibilities. To schedule a personal consultation, call 847-467-1460 or email [Lesley Lundeen](#).

She is also available for walk-in hours:

- **Chicago Campus:** Wednesdays 9 - 11 AM and 2 - 4 PM in Abbott Hall, Room 304
- **Evanston Campus:** Fridays 2 - 4 PM at TGS, Rebecca Crown Center

## Northwestern Graduate Students with Children group on [Canvas](#)

This online group will connect you with other graduate students from all across the university who have or who are about to have children and serve as a forum to share resources and support. The group will also keep you up to date on relevant deadlines, events and new resources from the Work/Life and Family Resources office.

To join or if you have questions, please email [Lesley Lundeen](#).

## Family Leave Information

- [Parental Accommodation Policy](#) – TGS provides 12 weeks of parental accommodation for students of all gender identities and gender expressions who become new parents (whether by childbirth or adoption). Funding may continue (for funded students) and TGS milestone deadlines will be extended (for all parents). This policy is separate from any student absences that are medically necessary due to pregnancy or childbirth.
- [Family Medical Leave of Absence](#) – For students who must temporarily interrupt progress toward degree to extend absence post-childbirth, care for a newborn, adopt a child, or care for a family member. This may be taken in addition to the parental accommodation.

## [Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students](#)

Northwestern University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant and parenting students. Students may request reasonable accommodations as a result of pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions. Reasonable accommodations vary based on the student's circumstances, but may include: academic accommodations and flexibility (such as breaks during class, excused absences, rescheduling of tests, extensions of deadlines, and

alternatives to make up missed work); leaves of absences or changes in work schedules; changes to housing; or other types of accommodations.

Students who wish to discuss or request accommodations based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator, at [TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu) or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students, at [DeputyTitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu](mailto:DeputyTitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu).

## **Children & Family**

The University offers the following resources for parents seeking information on childcare. The TGS Family Resource Liaison is available to discuss these and other relevant resources with you at your convenience, either in person, by phone or by video conference. Call the Family Resource Liaison at 847-467-1460 or email [Lesley Lundeen with questions or to set up a meeting](mailto:Lesley.Lundeen@northwestern.edu).

### **Finding childcare:**

- [Childcare Resources](#) – learn about area childcare centers, community resources, and free childcare referral services
- [Nannyshare Network](#)
- [Back-up Care](#) – for when your regular child care is unavailable
- [Summer Camps](#) – for school-age children

### **Financial assistance for childcare:**

- [TGS Graduate Student Childcare Grant](#) – portable childcare grants for eligible graduate students for day care or an in-home provider
- [Fee Assistance](#) – discounted tuition on a sliding scale at 4 area childcare centers. Cannot be used with the TGS Childcare grant.
- [TGS Dependent Care Grants](#) -- taxable funds to assist PhD and MFA students with dependents so that they may participate in professional development meetings and opportunities including research-related travel.

### **On-Campus Lactation Rooms**

- The University provides dedicated lactation rooms for nursing mothers on both campuses. [Maps of lactation rooms for Evanston and Chicago](#)
- Students can access these rooms through their Wildcard. To set up your Wildcard for one or more of these rooms, please contact Magda Fong in the Office of Work/Life and Family Resources at [magda.fong@northwestern.edu](mailto:magda.fong@northwestern.edu) or 847-467-3631.

## **Relocation**

The Office of Work/Life and Family Resources is happy to help you find schools, pet care, community information and other area family resources. Call the Family Resource Liaison at 847-467-1460 or email [Lesley Lundeen](mailto:Lesley.Lundeen@uic.edu).

## **Health Insurance**

The University offers students the option of enrolling dependents in the student health insurance plan. [Learn more on the Student Health Insurance website](#). Please note that you may pay for dependent coverage up front or on a quarterly basis.

The [All Kids program](#) provides comprehensive, affordable health insurance to Illinois children whose families cannot afford private health insurance. All Kids also offers two health insurance programs for [pregnant women](#). Parents who meet certain income requirements may have access to coverage through [Illinois FamilyCare Health Insurance](#).