



Income support changes for lone parents

From November, lone parents with older children will no longer be entitled to income support. At present, a lone parent with a child aged under 16 can claim income support but this is to change so that only those with a child under twelve will be entitled to it. Those with a child aged twelve or over will be expected to claim jobseeker's allowance instead, so will have to prove that they are actively seeking work.

Existing claimants will gradually be moved from income support from early 2009, while lone parents making a new or repeat claim for income support from November 2008 will be expected to comply with the new rules.

The age limit will drop again to ten and then seven so that by October 2010, lone parents with children aged seven or over will not be entitled to income support. The DWP is currently sending letters to existing claimants.