UNBURDENED PARENT | PRACTICAL TOOL

Holiday Cover Map

See the whole break. Find the actual gaps. Build only the cover you need.

Holiday planning can feel enormous when every school closure, workday, collection time and childcare option is floating separately in your head. Start by making the whole picture visible. You may discover that more is already covered than it feels like.

1. START WITH WHAT IS FIXED

Holiday period

School / nursery closes

School / nursery returns

Working budget for cover

Work commitments I already know about

Annual leave / flexibility already available

2. MARK WHAT IS ALREADY COVERED

Include annual leave, co-parenting arrangements, family or trusted friends, clubs or programmes, non-working days, flexible hours and other confirmed arrangements.

Date	Child/ren	Cover needed	What is arranged?	Hours	Cost	Status

Status key: C = Confirmed | P = Possible | G = Gap

3. FIND THE ACTUAL GAPS

Do not solve the whole holiday again. Look only at days marked G, or where available cover does not match the hours you need.

Date	Time uncovered	Child/ren	What makes this day difficult?

Sometimes the gap is not a whole day. It may be:

- [ ] A few hours
- [ ] Drop-off / collection
- [ ] Different needs between children
- [ ] Transport
- [ ] One difficult workday
- [ ] Cost or programme deadline

Holiday Cover Map

Work on the vulnerable days only. Safe and workable is enough.

4. BUILD WORKABLE COVER

For each real gap, focus on the hours that are actually uncovered. A workable plan can combine more than one arrangement.

GAP 1

Date | Hours needed | Child/ren

Possible arrangement

Transport | Cost | Arrange by | Status

GAP 2

Date | Hours needed | Child/ren

Possible arrangement

Transport | Cost | Arrange by | Status

GAP 3

Date | Hours needed | Child/ren

Possible arrangement

Transport | Cost | Arrange by | Status

5. CHECK THE FRAGILE DAYS

Which arrangements would leave you scrambling if someone became ill, a club was cancelled or transport fell through? You do not need a backup for every imaginable problem.

Date	Main arrangement	What could disrupt it?	Realistic Plan B

6. COUNT THE COST

Confirmed paid cover

Possible additional cost

Travel / transport

Total likely cover cost

7. GOOD ENOUGH CHECK

- [ ] Safe and appropriately supervised
- [ ] Cost is workable
- [ ] Vulnerable days are visible
- [ ] Transport is realistic
- [ ] Fits my child reasonably well
- [ ] Plan B exists where I truly need one