

Help with childcare costs: Tax free childcare



This easy read document tells you about tax-free childcare for working families of children aged 0 to 11; and for children aged 0-11 if they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

This document is part of a set of easy read information about help with childcare costs. [The full list of easy read documents is at the end of this document.](#)



What is tax-free childcare for working families of children aged 0 to 11?



The government will “top-up” what working families spend on childcare for children aged 0-11; or, for children with special educational needs and / or disabilities, aged 0-16.



To access the top-up, parents or carers will need to open an “online childcare account.”



For every £8 you pay into the account, the government will add an extra £2 – up to £500 every 3 months or £2000 per child per year.



For children aged 0 to 16 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), you can get up to £1,000 every 3 months or £4000 per year.

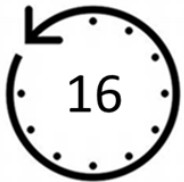
Who is eligible for tax-free childcare?



To be eligible for tax-free childcare you, and your partner if you have one, must:



- Both be working.



- Earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage.



- Each earn less than £100,000 a year.



If you or your partner are not working because either of you are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, you may still be eligible for the free childcare.



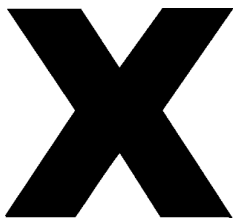
If you or your partner is not working because either of you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you may still be eligible for the free childcare.



You can combine tax-free childcare with the 30 hours free childcare for working families.



We have a separate [easy read document about 30 hours free childcare for working families](#).



You can't use tax-free childcare with:

- Universal Credit for childcare, or
- Childcare Vouchers
(the childcare vouchers scheme is closed to new entrants)



We have a separate [easy read document about Universal Credit for childcare](#).

How to apply



You can [apply for tax-free childcare by completing an online form](#) on the GOV.UK website.



You can find a [step-by-step guide to help you complete the form](#) on the GOV.UK's Childcare Choices website.

What does the funding cover?



You can use tax-free childcare all year round to spend on childcare such as registered childminders, nurseries and nannies, before and after school clubs and holiday clubs.



You can find childcare providers near you on the [Notts Help Yourself Families Information Service Directory](#).

Customer Service Centre



Our Customer Service Centre can answer most of your questions and help with information and form filling.

There are several ways to contact them, including:



Web: [Use our online contact form](#)



Telephone: 0300 500 80 80



Relay UK

Text Relay: 18001 0115 977 4050

People who have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to communicate via text can use the Text Relay service through the [Relay UK app](#).



SignVideo

Sign Video

People who use British Sign Language to communicate can use the [SignVideo app](#) to speak with us.

Other childcare funding easy read documents



You can read our other easy read documents with specific information on childcare support for:



- [Childcare funding for working parents with children over than 9 months and under 5 years](#)



- [Universal Credit for childcare](#)



- [Families receiving additional forms of financial support with children aged 2](#)



[Disability Access Fund](#)



- [Childcare support for students](#)

Links in this document

GOV.UK – apply for tax-free childcare

gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare

GOV.UK – Childcare Choices step-by-step application guide

childcarechoices.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Families Information Service directory

[nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/results.page?
newdirectorychannel=2](https://nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/results.page?newdirectorychannel=2)

Nottinghamshire County Council – contact us form

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform

Relay UK app

www.relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html

SignVideo app

signvideo.co.uk/download

Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Working families

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-free-childcare-for-working-families-easy-read

Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Tax-free childcare

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-tax-free-childcare-easy-read

Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Universal Credit for childcare

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-universal-credit-for-childcare-easy-read

Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Families receiving additional forms of financial support with children aged 2

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-families-receiving-additional-support-with-2-year-old-children-easy-read

Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Disability Access Fund

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-disability-access-fund-easy-read

Easy read – Help with childcare costs: Childcare support for students

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/easy-read-library/help-with-childcare-costs-for-parents-who-are-students-easy-read

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Help with childcare costs \(Nottinghamshire County Council\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/help-with-childcare-costs)

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/help-with-childcare-costs

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