

Benefits Series

Help with Childcare Costs

Date: April 2024 | Information updated annually

Please see our website for up-to-date information: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

If you have concerns, please ring the DSA's Benefits Adviser: Helen Wild

Monday & Thursday 10am-4pm Tues & Weds 10am-12.30pm | Telephone: 0333 1212 300

From Age Two 15 Hours for 38 weeks (England)

Working Parents earning more than £8,670 and less than £100,000

Children who receive DLA

UC with household income less than £15,400 after tax

Non uk citizens with 'no recourse to public funds' and earning after tax, less than £26,500 outside London or £34,500 within London. For 2 or more children the amounts are £30,600 (outside) and £38,600 (within) and with savings less than 16k.

30 hours free childcare from Age 3 -4 years for 38 weeks

If you are receiving carers allowance, you may be able to claim 30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/how-to-apply-for-30-hours-free-childcare/>

In **Scotland** there is an Early Learning Payment for those on a low income and whose child has reached 2.

www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare

In **Wales** there is access to a scheme providing help for working parents of 3-4 years of age

www.gov.wales/childcare-offer-for-wales-campaign

Tax free childcare

You can claim up-to £500 every 3 months for each of your children. If you have a child who has a disability, this amount increases to £1000 every 3 months

To register for the scheme, you will need to set up an account on the Gov.uk website and for every £8 you pay in, to pay for your childcare, the Government will pay £2, effectively saving you 20% of the fees.

You can use this scheme in conjunction with the free hours detailed above if eligible.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Families receiving means tested benefit

You are unable to get tax free childcare at the same time as receiving Universal Credit, child tax credit, working tax credit or childcare vouchers.

This is because there may already be childcare cost included in your award.

You can use the calculator below if you are receiving child tax credits to see which way you would be better off

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, you may qualify for up-to 85% of your childcare costs if you and your partner are both working. Last summer the government announced that these costs would be paid upfront rather than in arrears.

At present the monthly amount is £1014.63 for one child and £1739.37 for two or more children.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>

[For further information, look at https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working](https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

Contact us

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