

Scottish Child Payment and the Best Start Grant – Scotland only

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a payment made to parents and carers of children under 16 years old to put towards the cost of supporting the family. You will receive **£27.15** per week for each eligible child in your household. If you have more than one eligible child you will receive a payment for each child. Payments are made every 4 weeks into your nominated account. There are no restrictions on what you choose to spend the money on.

To qualify for the Scottish Child Payment you must live in Scotland **and** you or your partner must be the main person looking after a child who's under 16 years old **and** be in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

The Scottish Child Payment does not affect any other UK or Scottish Government benefits that you, or any person in your household, currently get.

For further information or to apply online go to www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment or contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

Best Start Grant

The Best Start Grant is made up of 3 different payments:

- the Pregnancy and baby payment
- the Early learning payment
- the School age payment

Who is eligible?

To qualify for the grant you **must** live in Scotland and both of the following apply:

1. you or your partner already get certain benefits:

- Universal Credit
 - Income Support
 - Pension Credit
 - Housing Benefit
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
2. you or your partner are either pregnant or are the main person looking after the baby or child who is the correct age for the payment being applied for.

Pregnancy and Baby Payment

The Pregnancy and Baby Payment is a cash payment for the parents, or carers, of a baby living in Scotland. It is paid to help cover some of the costs of having a baby. This payment is made by Social Security Scotland.

Who is eligible?

You or your partner are at least 24 weeks pregnant or your baby has been born within the last 6 months.

Circumstances where you are not the birth mother or her partner

You may be entitled to the Pregnancy and Baby Payment if you have a stepchild or have taken over looking after a child, if they are your oldest child under 16 and you are in receipt of Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit or Universal Credit child payments for them.

If you are not the birth mother or her partner you may still be entitled to the Pregnancy and Baby Payment if:

- you adopt, are a kinship carer or have a legal order to look after a child; and
- the child is under one; and
- for the baby you are in receipt of one of the following child payments:
 - Child Benefit
 - Universal Credit.

Or

- You are in receipt of one of the above child payments for the baby's birth mother.

How much will you get?

You will receive £767.50 for your first child. You'll receive a further £383.75 for any other child, such as your second or third. In addition to this there is an additional £377.35 paid if you are having a multiple birth.

	Payment if you have one baby	Payment if you have twins	Payment if you have triplets
First pregnancy/birth	£767.50	£1535	£1918.75
Subsequent pregnancy/birth	£383.75	£1151.25	£1535

If you've already been paid the Sure Start Maternity Grant for a baby, you cannot be paid the Pregnancy and Baby Payment for the same baby. Payment will usually be made directly into a bank, building society or other account that you have nominated.

Early learning Payment

Who is eligible?

You can get the payment when your child is aged between 2 years old and 3 years and 6 months old. To get this payment your child does not need to go to nursery.

How much will you get?

Early Learning Payment is a payment of £319.80 per child to help with the costs of early learning.

You can get Early Learning Payment for multiple children, as long as each child is the right age when you apply. You can spend this money on anything you need for your child at this age.

School Age Payment

Who is eligible?

To get a payment, your child does not have to take up a place at school. However, you still need to apply in the year that your child is first old enough to start school, if you're deferring when your child starts school or your child is not going to school.

When you need to apply for the School Age Payment depends on when your child was born:

Your child's date of birth	When you can apply
Between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020	Between 1 June 2024 and 25 February 2024

Your child's date of birth	When you can apply
Between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021	Between 1 June 2025 and 28 February 2026

How much will you get?

School Age Payment is a payment of £319.80 per child. It helps with the costs of preparing for school when your child is first old enough to start primary school.

You can get the payment for multiple children, as long as each child is the right age when you apply.

You can spend this money on anything you need for your child at this age.

For further information or to apply online for any aspect of the Best Start Grant go to www.mygov.scot/browse/benefits/children-and-family/best-start or contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

If you require any further information on the financial support available for parents, please contact our Family Benefits Advice Service for free, confidential and impartial advice on fbas@employersforchildcare.org.