

Help available for families towards childcare costs with a Tax-Free Childcare account

What is it?

For families with children under 12, a Tax-Free Childcare account can be worth up to £2,000 per year per child towards registered childcare, such as before and after school clubs, holiday clubs, childminders, nurseries, and pre-schools. This increases to £4,000 per year for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and goes up to the age of 17.



How it works?

For every £8 paid into an online Tax-Free Childcare account, the Government will pay in £2. This is a saving of 20% on their childcare costs. The online childcare account is used to pay the childcare provider directly.

For example, if a family has childcare costs of £750 per month, they would pay £600 into their childcare account and the government would pay in £150. This would be an annual saving of £1,800 per child.

Who is it for?

To be eligible both parents must be in employment, or one parent in a single-parent household, and be earning at least the National Minimum Wage for 16 hours per week on average and under £100,000 per year. This includes being self-employed, on maternity or parental leave, on sick leave or annual leave.

You can't use a Tax-Free Childcare account at the same time as Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit, so it won't benefit all families. The Government has [an online calculator](#) for families to check how much they can save on childcare costs

You can use a Tax-Free Childcare account at the same time as 15 hours and 30 hours funded childcare where available to help save even more.

Families will need to reconfirm their eligibility every three months, but reminders are sent out via text message to make this simple.

Where can families use their Tax-Free Childcare Account?

Families can find registered childcare providers near them on the Notts Help Yourself website in the Families Information Service directory.

If your school has wraparound provision, holiday clubs, nursery or foundation provision please check your schools' details are on here and up to date.

[Find Childcare | Notts Help Yourself](#)

How to apply?

It takes 20 minutes to apply.

Families can apply online at [Apply for Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

They will need their details (and their partner's, if they have one), including:

- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) if self-employed

Getting the message to families

Please help spread the message by adding links to the relevant pages on your school website, and/or including in your school newsletter.

Information about Tax-Free Childcare funding can be found here:

[Tax-Free Childcare | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Step by step to applying for Tax-Free Childcare can be found here:

[Get Tax-Free Childcare: step by step - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Information on more types of Childcare Funding can be found here:

[Help with Childcare Costs | Notts Help Yourself](#)

Finding a childcare provider can be found here:

[Find Childcare | Notts Help Yourself](#)

For more information contact: nottsfis@nottsc.gov.uk