

Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment



The Best Start Grant is three payments of extra money for parents and carers. You can use this during the early years of a child's life.



The Early Learning Payment is a **£250** payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits and who have a child between 2 and 3½ years old. This is to help with the costs of early learning around the time your child might start nursery.

You can apply from the date of your child's 2nd birthday up to the child is 3½. You cannot apply after the child is 3½.

You can apply for the Early Learning Payment whether you work or not.



If you are the parent or full-time carer of a child, and you get certain benefits or tax credits you might be able to apply. The benefits are:

- Universal Credit (UC)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- Working Tax Credit.





If you are under 18 you can apply without being on any of the benefits already mentioned.

If you are 18 or 19 and you are still at school, college or in training you might be able to apply:



- If your parent or carer is claiming one of these benefits for you
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit



You can telephone the Money Talk Team on 0800 085 7145. It is free to call. Your call is also confidential.



You can still apply even if your child is not going to go to nursery. Your child must be between 2 years old and 3½ years old.



It will take 14 – 21 days to get your payment. Most people will not need to send us anything to prove they can apply.



We can check if you are on Child Benefit. This will only tell us if you are responsible for a child. You will still need to be on one of the other benefits listed to apply.



If we need more information from you it could take longer to get a payment. We might ask you for:

- A legal order from a court or children's hearing
- Something with your address like a utility bill or a council tax bill



If you are married, in a civil partnership or live together as if you are married you will need your partners' information



You will be paid into your bank account. You can decide what to use the money for. For example, you could use it for:

- Clothes
- Shoes
- Toys
- Books
- Days out



The School Age Payment will not affect any other benefits or tax credits.



If you need this information in other languages or formats call:

0800 182 222