



GOV.UK

Parents Guide To Setting Up Funding




Little 1 Nursery

Check your
eligibility for
funding and or
tax-free
childcare

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

Sign in or create a new log in for funding and or tax-free childcare

 **GOV.UK**

Sign in to HMRC online services

Beta This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

English | [Cymraeg](#)

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Sign in to HMRC

- Government Gateway**
Use your Government Gateway user ID which can be up to 12 characters
- GOV.UK One Login**
Use your GOV.UK One Login email address if you have used this to sign in to HMRC before

or

- Create new sign in details**
We will tell you if you need to create a GOV.UK One Login or a Government

[Reconfirmation](#)

Confirm your details are up to date every 3 months. Do this between 12 January 2026 and 8 February 2026

▶ [I've missed my end date, what do I do?](#)

[Your Tax-Free Childcare account](#)

Manage your Tax-Free Childcare account, pay money in, select and pay childcare providers or make a withdrawal

[Free Childcare For Working Parents](#)

View your Free Childcare For Working Parents codes

[Secure messages](#)

View messages about your application and account

[Contact details](#)

View or change your email address or phone number

[Security](#)

Reset your telephone password, change and view your security check questions

[Re-apply or apply for a new child](#)

Apply for a new child, or one who wasn't eligible in an

Complete your child's details

BETA This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

What is the child's name?

Their name should be as it is shown on their Birth or Adoption Certificate. If they have a middle name, you must include it.

First name

Middle name

Last name

Continue

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BETA This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

Enter the child's date of birth

Date of birth

For example, [24 04 2019](#)

Day Month Year

Continue

[Stop adding this child](#)

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What's your relationship to this child?

If you get support from your local authority for foster care (except short-term respite care) you won't be eligible for this child.

- Parent
- Guardian or short-term respite carer
- Foster carer

Continue

[Stop adding this child](#)
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 **GOV.UK**
The childcare service

BETA This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

Does this child normally live with you?

- Yes
- No

Continue

[Stop adding this child](#)
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Continue
answering...



The childcare service

BETA This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

Your child and Child Benefit

Have you, your partner or anyone else ever claimed Child Benefit for this child, either now or in the past?

▶ [What is child benefit?](#)

Yes

No

Continue

[Stop adding this child](#)

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Is this child getting or expecting to get support for a disability?

Select all that apply.

- Disability Living Allowance
 - Child Disability Payment
 - Personal Independence Payment
 - Armed Forces Independence Payment
 - Certificate of visual impairment
- or
- None of these benefits or certificates

Continue

[Stop adding this child](#)

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Funding starts the term after your child turns 9 months old.

GOV.UK
The childcare service

BETA This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

We will now ask you about your current childcare support

We need to know if you get:

- a childcare bursary or grant
- Universal Credit
- childcare vouchers

[Continue](#)

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apply for:

- Free Childcare For Working Parents and Tax-Free Childcare £

Free Childcare For Working Parents

Free Childcare For Working Parents gives you up to 1,140 hours a year for eligible children. You can choose how you use those hours. If your application is successful, we will send you an eligibility code to give to your childcare provider to secure your child's place. You get the free hours when the next term starts. The free hours stop when your child starts in reception class (or reaches compulsory school age, if later).

Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare gives you up to £500 every 3 months (£2,000 a year) to help with childcare costs for each child under 12. You get a £2 government top-up for every £8 you pay your childcare provider through an online account that we set up if your application is successful.

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Do you or your partner get childcare vouchers?

Yes

No

Continue

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Do you or your partner get Universal Credit?

This includes if you are registered, or appealing a decision.

Yes

No

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You can still apply for Free Childcare For Working Parents if you are assessed as having Limited Capability for Work for Universal Credit purposes. Contact us on [0300 1234 097](tel:03001234097) to check your eligibility.

If you live in Scotland and receive Carer Support Payment, please select 'Carers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance' below.

How would you describe your work status?

Are you on any of these types of leave or pay?

If you expect to be combining more than one of these leave types, please only select the type of leave you are on right now.

- Maternity or paternity leave
 - Neonatal care leave
 - Adoption leave
 - Statutory sick pay
- or
- None of these

Continue

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Is your partner on any of these types of leave or pay?

If your partner expects to be combining more than one of these leave types, please only select the type of leave they are on right now.

Maternity or paternity leave

Neonatal care leave

Adoption leave

Statutory sick pay

or

None of these

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How would you describe your partner's work status?

If your partner is on maternity, paternity, adoption or neonatal care leave, select the status they had before the leave started.

Select all that apply.

Paid employment, or due to start new employment with a confirmed start date

Director of your own company

Self-employed

Carer's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance

or

Not in employment

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Will you earn at least £195.36 a week, before tax, for the next 3 months?

If you are waiting to start a new job, please use the amount that you will earn once the new job starts to answer this question.

It doesn't matter if you don't expect to earn this amount in any weeks that you are on parental or adoption leave. If this is the case, select no and continue with your application.

- Yes
- No

▶ [What to do if your income varies?](#)

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If your partner is waiting to start a new job, please use the amount that they will earn once the new job starts to answer this question.

It doesn't matter if your partner doesn't expect to earn this amount in any weeks that they are on parental or adoption leave. If this is the case, select no and continue with your application.

- Yes
- No

▶ [What to do if your partner's income varies?](#)

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Do you expect to have a taxable income of more than £100,000 for the current tax year?

Adjusted net income is the total taxable income before any Personal Allowances and less certain tax reliefs.

Adjusted net income includes;

- Income from work
- regularly received bonuses commissions or similar payments
- profit from self employment
- dividends paid to a director who is also a shareholder
- income from investments such as rental income from property

Does not include;

- trading losses, including carried forward losses
- donations made to charity through gift aid
- many pension contributions
- any Capital Gains earnings such as selling a property or shares

Yes

Does your partner expect to have a taxable income of more than £100,000 for the current tax year?

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You will receive a secure message to let you know the outcome of your application, once you receive your code, please send it on to us and don't forget to reconfirm within the reconfirmation dates you are sent.

Your application for Free Childcare For Working Parents and Tax-Free Childcare

If successful, we will update your childcare account as part of your application. In most cases we will give you an answer to your application straight away.

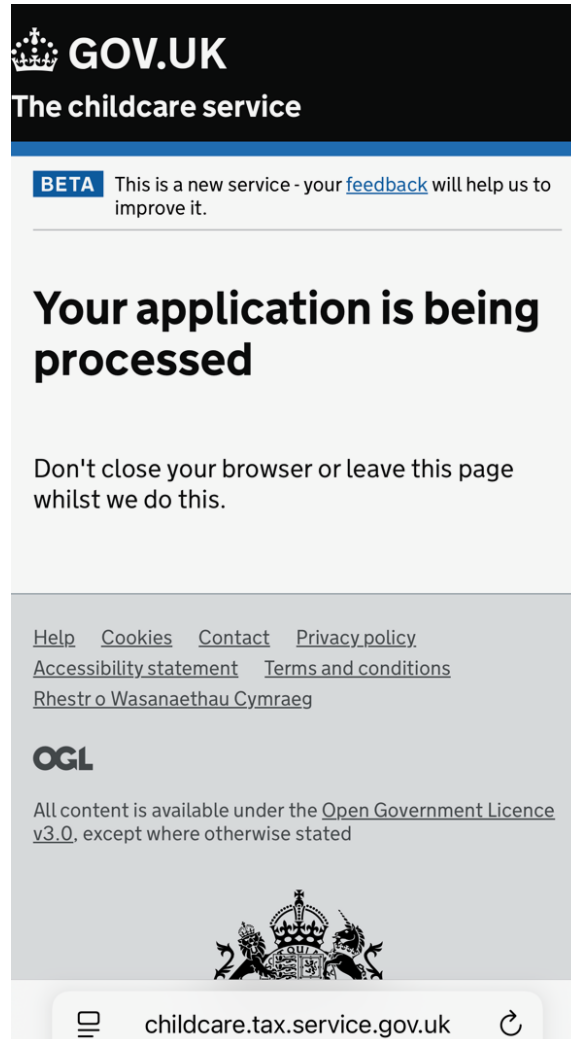
To continue to get Tax-Free Childcare or Free Childcare For Working Parents, you must check and re-confirm your details every three months.

Declaration

Government will check details you have given against their records. If you give the wrong details the government may:

- take back any money you receive
- fine you
- restrict your account
- take you to court

You are responsible for all the details in this application. If you are paid too much Tax-Free Childcare, that amount will be taken back from your childcare account, through your tax code or from you directly.



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website for the childcare service. At the top, it says 'GOV.UK The childcare service'. Below that, a 'BETA' badge indicates it's a new service and asks for feedback. The main heading is 'Your application is being processed'. A warning says 'Don't close your browser or leave this page whilst we do this.' At the bottom, there are links for Help, Cookies, Contact, Privacy policy, Accessibility statement, and Terms and conditions. The OGL logo is also present, along with the text 'All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated'. The browser address bar shows 'childcare.tax.service.gov.uk'.

[Reconfirmation](#)

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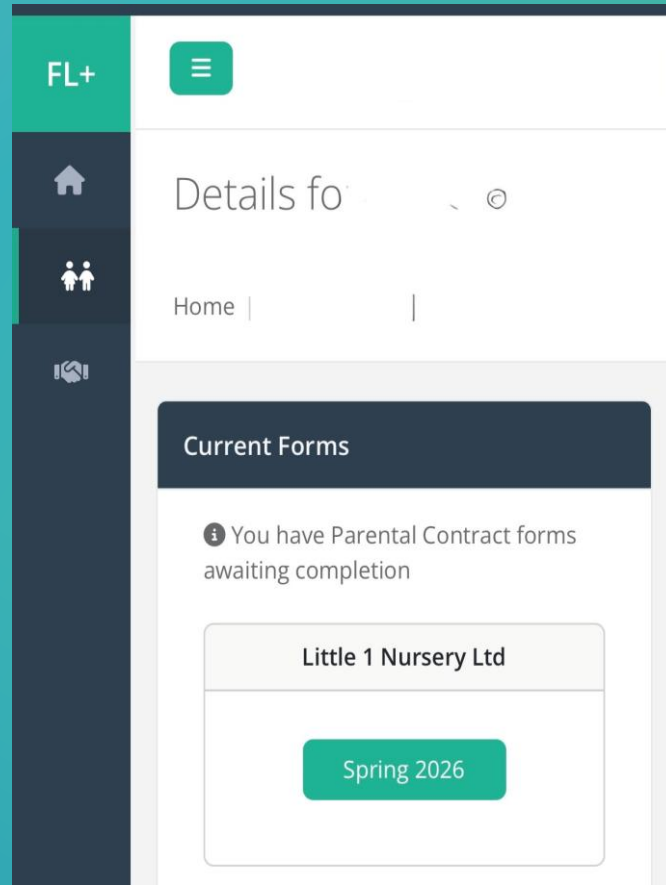
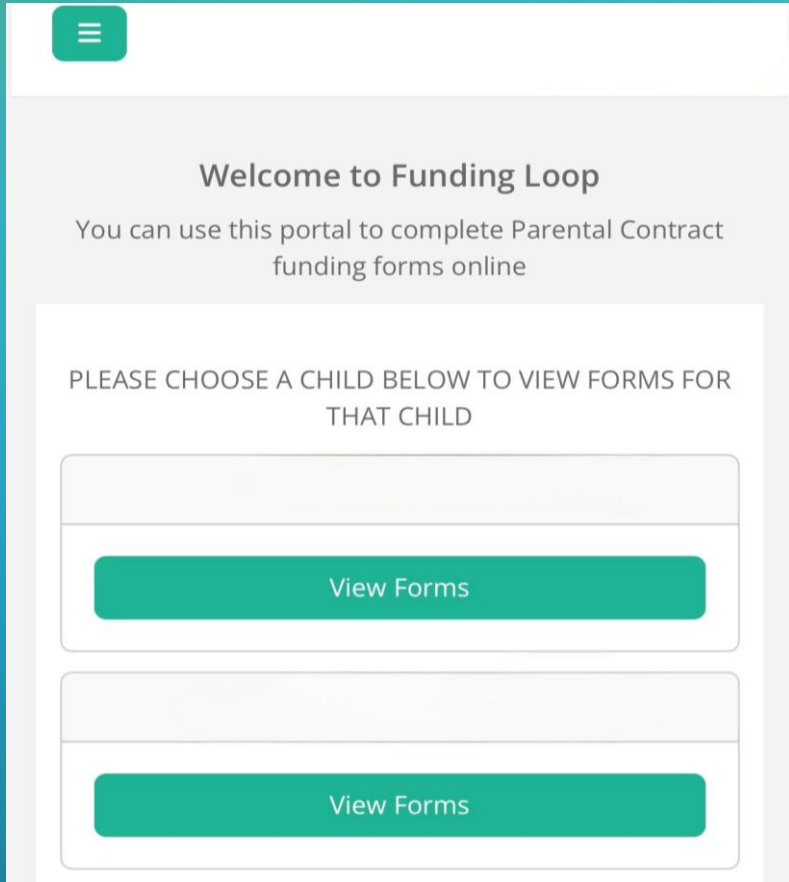
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You will see your reconfirmation dates when you log into your government childcare account.

Funding loop



Put the date of the start of the next term e.g. 1st January, 1st April or 1st September, whichever one is coming next.

