# Best Start Grant

## What is it?

Three payments to help parents and carers on a low income with the cost of having a child.

The three payments are:

* Pregnancy and Baby Payment
* Early Learning Payment
* School Age Payment

## Am I eligible?

You may be eligible if:

* You live in Scotland
* You are pregnant or the parent or carer of a child and get certain benefits or tax credits
* It does not matter whether you are in work or not

If you are under 18 you can apply whether or not you are receiving any other benefits.

If you are 18 or 19 and do not get any benefits you can still apply if your parent or carer gets child tax credit, child benefit, universal credit child payments or the child addition of pension credit for you.

## When can I apply?

You can apply for Pregnancy and Baby Payment from when you are 24 weeks pregnant up until the day your baby turns six months old.

You can apply for Early Learning Payment from when your child is two years old until they are three years and six months.

You can apply for School Age Payment during the relevant application window for your child’s age. You don’t need to take up a school place to get it.

If your child was born between 1 March 2015 and 29 Feb 2016, the application window to apply is from 1 June 2020 until 28 February 2021. If you wait until after then it will be too late and you will miss out on your payment.

There is no limit on the number of children you can claim each payment for.

## How much will I be paid?

Pregnancy and Baby Payment is a one off payment of £600 for your first child and £300 for subsequent children. There is an extra £300 payment for a multiple birth.

Early Learning Payment is a one off payment of £250 around the time your child would start nursery. They do not have to attend nursery to qualify.

School Age Payment is a one off payment of £250 around the time your child is first old enough to start P1.

You can spend the payments on whatever you like and do not need to pay them back.

## How do I apply?

You can apply:

* By phone on 0800 182 2222
* British Sign Language users can apply via video relay using the [contactSCOTLAND](https://contactscotland-bsl.org/) app
* Online via the [Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods section](https://www.mygov.scot/benefits/best-start/) of the mygov.scot website
* By post – you can request a paper form by calling the above number or download and print a form from the [mygov.scot website](https://www.mygov.scot/benefits/best-start/)

## Where can I find further information?

Further information about Best Start Grant can be found on the [mygov.scot website](https://www.mygov.scot/benefits/best-start/)

Many organisations provide welfare rights advice and support to apply for benefits. For details of support available in your local area please contact Visibility Scotland:

* By phone on **0141 332 4632**
* [Email us](mailto:info@visibilityscotland.org.uk)
* [Visit our website](https://visibilityscotland.org.uk/)

## We value your feedback

You can help us improve this factsheet by letting us know what you think about it. Contact us by phone on **0141 332 4632** or [email us](mailto:info@visibilityscotland.org.uk).

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