

Making Childcare More Affordable



There is financial support available in Northern Ireland to help with the cost of registered school-age childcare.

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE (TFC)

Up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for a child under 17 with a disability.

For children aged 0-11, inclusive of the summer months after a child turns 11, or 16 if the child has a disability.

HMRC pays 20% of registered childcare costs.

For eligible working parents, including self-employed parents (both parents must be working).

Parents must earn between £203.36 per week and £100,000 per year, per parent.

Can be used for registered childcare.

NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDCARE SUBSIDY SCHEME (NICSS)

15% off eligible childcare fees.

Parents and providers must be registered with TFC.

Up to £203 per child per month, or £406 per month if the child in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Can be used for registered childcare.

TFC and NICSS can be used together.

Parents in receipt of Childcare Vouchers or Universal Credit are not eligible for this scheme.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT CHILDCARE ELEMENT

85% savings up to £1,071.09 for one child and £1,836.16 for two or more children per year.

Subject to the relevant rules and monthly limits.

Cannot be used in conjunction with TFC/NICSS.

Payments are usually made in arrears, however parents may be eligible for the Advisory Discretion Fund to help with the first payment.

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

For some employers and employees, their Childcare Voucher schemes are coming to a close in December, and Childcare Vouchers still in existence will no longer be valid.

Contact the Family Benefits Advice Service to discuss your most relevant form of support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONTACT FAMILY BENEFITS ADVICE SERVICE.

Tel: 078 7247 0326

Email: fbas@employersforchildcare.org

Web: employersforchildcare.org

Eligibility criteria, payment limits and scheme rules can change. Always check the latest guidance and seek individual advice before changing an existing benefit or childcare support arrangement.