

What do you need to know about the childcare benefit?

Want to use childcare? Then you want make sure you can afford it. Many parents who use childcare are entitled to childcare benefit. We want to tell you more about it: what is it, who is entitled to it and what are the conditions?



Please note: You must apply for childcare benefit yourself. You will not receive childcare benefit automatically when your child starts going to childcare. Apply for childcare benefit within 3 months after your child has started going to childcare.

What is childcare benefit?

For most parents, the government partially reimburses their childcare costs. The government does this through the childcare benefit. Toeslagen (the Dutch benefits agency) will deposit the childcare benefit into the parent or parents' account on around the 20th day of each month. You pay for part of the childcare bill each month with the childcare benefit you receive. You pay the rest of the amount yourself. This is called your 'own contribution' or 'parent contribution'.

Why childcare benefit?

The government contributes to the cost of childcare. This makes childcare cheaper for parents and means more parents can use childcare.

Can I get childcare benefit?

In order to receive childcare benefit, you and your benefit partner must meet certain conditions. The most important conditions are listed below.

1. You are working, following a pathway to employment, studying* or doing an mandatory integration course*, or you need long-term care (Long-Term Care Act (Wlz) indication). If you have a benefit partner, they must also be working or studying*, following a pathway to employment, doing an mandatory integration course*, or need long-term care (Long-Term Care Act (Wlz) indication).

*This needs to be with an official organisation.

2. You receive child benefit or a foster parent contribution for your child, or you pay a large amount of the living costs for your child.
3. Your child is registered at your home address.
4. The childcare centre is registered in the National Childcare Register.
5. You have a contract with the childcare centre.
6. The child for whom you are applying for childcare benefit is not yet in secondary school.
7. You pay the childcare bill.
8. You have Dutch nationality or a valid residence permit and a BSN (Citizen Service Number).

Extra rules

Extra rules may apply in some situations. For example, if you are a co-parent, live or work abroad, or have a different nationality. For more information, visit toeslagen.nl or call the Tax Information Line if you have questions about your situation.

Childcare means:

- day nursery or kindergarten
- nursery school, playgroup or pre-school
- out-of-school care: before or after school
- childminder

If you use pre-school education (VE), this may affect the childcare benefit. Go to www.boink.info/opvang-kiezen/vve for more information.

How much childcare benefit will I receive?

The amount of childcare benefit you receive depends on various factors. The most important factors are:

- your income
- if you have a benefit partner: their income
- hourly rate of the childcare
- childcare type
- number of childcare hours

You can make a test calculation at toeslagen.nl.

You are also entitled to childcare benefit if you have a high income. This is arranged differently from the rent benefit and healthcare benefit.



Please note:

Has something in your work situation or income changed? Will your child go to childcare for more or less hours? Is the hourly childcare rate going up? Has your personal situation changed in any other way? If so, please inform Toeslagen as soon as possible.

Why do you need to tell us about changes as soon as possible?

Toeslagen estimates in advance how much childcare benefit you should receive. It is therefore a prepayment. Toeslagen calls it an 'advance payment'. Toeslagen calculates the advance payment based on the information it has about you. Toeslagen checks that the details are correct both during the year and at the end of the year. If the information is incorrect, you may have to repay the childcare benefit. Or you may be receiving too little childcare benefit. In that case, you will receive a supplementary payment. That is why it is very important that you regularly check the information and change it if necessary.

You can inform us about any changes at toeslagen.nl or in the childcare benefit app provided by Toeslagen.

Want to apply for childcare benefit?

Use our checklist and our app to help you!

These are the most important rules for the childcare benefit. However, there are more. For more information, go to toeslagen.nl or call the Tax Information Line (free of charge) on 0800 05 43.

This information letter was written by the Association of Parents in Childcare (BOiNK). The information has been verified by Toeslagen (the Dutch benefits agency).

No rights can be derived from the information in this letter.

This means that you are responsible for the information you fill in when you apply for or change your childcare benefit.

BOiNK is not liable for the consequences of applying the information in this letter.

This means that BOiNK is not responsible for the consequences of errors in the application or change.

The information is not exhaustive.

This means that not all information about the childcare benefit is included in this letter. It is important that you read the extensive information available at www.toeslagen.nl through carefully. Need help? Go to www.boink.info/kosten-en-kinderopvangtoeslag