



## Social Security Scotland 5 family payments



**Scottish Child Payment** is a new payment of £40 paid every 4 weeks. It is paid for each child under 6. It is for families on certain benefits or tax credits. It helps towards the costs of looking after a child.



**Best Start Grant** is for parents and carers. It is made up of 3 payments to help when a child is young:

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



**Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment** is a £606 payment for a first child. For any other children you have, you will get £303. If you have a multiple birth, you will get an extra £303. You can apply for this from:

- 24 weeks pregnant
- up to the day your baby is 6 months old.



It is to help with costs in pregnancy or having a baby for things like:

- Maternity clothes
- A pram
- Additional heating



### **Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment**

is a £252.50 payment. It is for families on certain benefits or tax credits and who have a child between 2 and 3½ years old. It is to help with the costs of early learning around the time your child might start nursery.



### **Best Start Grant School Age Payment**

is £252.50 when a child is starting in Primary 1. It is to help with the costs of starting school.



**Best Start Foods** is a prepaid card. You will get £17.00 every 4 weeks if:

- you are pregnant, or
- you have children between 1 and 3 years old.



This payment increases to £34.00 for any child under 1 year old. You can use the card to buy healthy foods for children under 3 years old. You can use it in shops and online to buy any of the foods listed:



- Fresh eggs
- Milk – plain cow's milk and first infant formula
- Fruit/vegetables – fresh, frozen or tinned You cannot buy tinned or frozen food with added salt or sugar.
- Pulses; for example, peas, lentils and beans. These can be dried, fresh, frozen or tinned.





You can apply for these payments if:

- You live in Scotland
- You are in work or not
- You or your partner are the parent or carer of the child and you get certain benefits or tax credits.



You need to get one of the following payments to get **Scottish Child Payment** or **Best Start Grant**:

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





You can get **Best Start Foods** if you get any of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) up to a maximum
- Income of £16,190 a year
- Universal Credit (UC) with an income limit of £610 a month
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and income under £7,320
- The four-week run
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit –weekly income of £311 and under.



You can check if you are entitled to any of these benefits. Telephone the Money Talk Team on **0800 085 7145**. It is free to call. Your call is also confidential.

For **Scottish Child Payment** and **Best Start Grant** payments, we do not need to know about your income. For **Best Start Foods**, some of the benefits have an income limit.



Most people can apply without sending any evidence.



We check with the Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC that you are on a qualifying benefit or tax credit.

We can check you are responsible for a child by checking that you are on Child Benefit.

You will need to have another benefit to be able to get a payment.

Sometimes we might ask you to send us more information to process your application.

This could be:

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



We will need your partner's information if:

- You live in the same house and are married to each other.
- If you are civil partners of each other.
- If you live together as if you are married.





Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba



Apply on our freephone helpline  
**0800 182 2222**. You can also apply by post  
or online at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits)



**Scottish Child Payment** and **Best Start Grant** payments will be paid into your bank account. **Best Start Foods** will be paid onto a card.



Each of these payments will not affect any other benefits or tax credits.



If you need this information in other languages or formats call:  
**0800 182 2222**