



# Raising Attainment for All

## Best Start Grant

### School Age Payment

Raising young children can be expensive. The School Age Payment can help ease some of that burden with a £267.65 payment towards the costs of starting school. As of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, Best Start Grant School Age Payment applications open for children who were born between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018.

People who get tax credits or certain benefits are encouraged to apply before the window closes on 28 February 2023. Eligibility is based on age and relates to when a child is first old enough to start school. Parents or carers who have deferred their child's entry to school from August 2022 to August 2023, or those home schooling, must still apply before the closing date or they will lose out on their payment.

When you need to apply for the School Age Payment depends on when your child was born:

Your child's date of birth	When you can apply
Between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018	Between 1 June 2022 and 28 February 2023
Between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019	Between 1 June 2023 and 29 February 2024

### Early Learning Payment

Early Learning Payment is a payment of £267.65 per child to help with the costs of early learning. You can get the payment when your child is aged between 2 years old and 3 years and 6 months old and your child does not need to go to nursery. You can get Early Learning Payment for multiple children, as long as each child is the right age when you apply.

This is to help with the costs of early learning around the time your child might start nursery. You can apply for the Early Learning Payment whether you are in work or not. You may be eligible if you are the parent or full-time carer of a child, and you get certain benefits or tax credits.\*

\*Universal Credit (UC), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit. If you are under 18 you are automatically eligible and don't have to be on a qualifying benefit.

Social Security Scotland take applications via the freephone helpline - 0800 182 2222, by post or get more information on how to apply via our website Best [Start Grant and Best Start Foods - mygov.scot](#)

