

# BEST START GRANT

Could you be entitled to receive a Best Start Grant payment for your child / children?

## EARLY LEARNING PAYMENT

You can apply when your child is aged **between 2 years old and 3 years 6 months old**.

As this payment is based on age rather than set application dates if you have a late application to submit then due to the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19), you should still apply - Social Security Scotland will still consider your form.

If you get the Early Learning Payment, you'll get **£250** for each child eligible. You can spend this money on any of the things you need for your child at this age. This includes toys to help them learn or trips to new places.

## SCHOOL AGE PAYMENT

To apply for the School Age Payment your child must be born between the dates mentioned below:

Your child's date of birth: **Between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016**

When you need to apply: **Between 1 June 2020 and 28 February 2021**

If you get the School Age Payment, you'll get **£250** for each child eligible. This money can be used for any costs related to your child starting school.

You cannot apply for the School Age Payment for a child born before 1st March 2014.

The School Age Payment is a new payment and has not replaced the School Clothing Grant. It does not affect in any way payments of the School Clothing Grant and if you want to apply for both, you can.

## HOW TO APPLY

**Online** - <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/>

**By Phone** - call (Freephone) **0800 182 2222** (8am - 6pm Monday to Friday)

You'll not be able to speak to someone straight away. Instead, you leave a message and we'll call you back.

**Paper Form** - can be downloaded from <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/> or speak to your Early Years key person and they can provide one.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- ❖ if your child is the right age for a payment
- ❖ whether you're in work or not, as long as you're on certain payments or benefits (unless you are a parent under 18, then you do not need to be on any payments or benefits to apply for Best Start Grant)
- ❖ as long as you're the parent of a child, or the main person looking after the child

## WHAT AFFECTS WHETHER YOU CAN APPLY

If you're a parent over 18, you can apply whether you're in work or not, as long as you're getting one of these:

Universal Credit	Child Tax Credit	Working Tax Credit
Housing Benefit	Income Support	Pension Credit
Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)	Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)	

If you're not getting any of these benefits or payments, but have applied for one, you can still apply for this Best Start Grant and also your income will not affect your application.

***If you have any questions or require support in completing your application then we are here to help you.***

***Please speak to your Early Years key person who will be happy to help.***

*#KindnessMidlothian*