



# COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FOR CARNEGIE FAMILIES

"The cost of living is going up, the chance of living is going down"  
Flip Wilson

If you are on low income you may be entitled to financial support

## Support includes

- ➔ Ways to balance your budget
- ➔ Are you eligible for a financial grant?
- ➔ Advice and guidance relating to support available in Fife

# Best Start Grant

## WHAT

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is £252.50 for each child to help with the costs of children starting school. It is up to you what you spend it on, and you don't need to show receipts.

## WHEN

If you are responsible for a child born between:

Child's Date of Birth	When to Apply
Between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017	Between 1 June 2021 and 28 February 2022
Between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018	Between 1 June 2022 and 28 February 2023

You cannot apply outwith these dates

## WHO

You can claim this payment if you are responsible for a school age child (see above) and you or your partner are entitled to:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit

You can apply anytime within the **9 month application window**.

If you have become responsible for a child, for instance as a kinship carer, you might qualify for a payment even if a payment has already been made to someone else – as long as you were not that person's partner when they received the grant and the child is not living with that person.

Apply online or download a claim form at [www.mygov.scot](http://www.mygov.scot) or call **0800 182 2222** to apply by phone or request a form.

# Free School Meals

## WHAT

Primary schools provide free school meals and free school milk

## WHEN

Applications usually open on 1<sup>st</sup> May

From Primary 5 you must apply for free school meals. From January 2022 Primary 5 will be free.

Apply online at the school grants section: [www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants](http://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants)

Or pick up a form from your school

## WHO

You can claim if you are in receipt of any one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit only with a household annual income of less than £16,105
- Universal Credit - including those with a take home pay of up to £610 per month

## WHO

You can claim if you are in receipt of any one of the following:

- Any amount of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction
- OR
- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit only with a household annual income of less than £16,105
- Universal Credit - including those with a take home pay of up to £610 per month

# School Clothing Grant

## WHAT

The school clothing grant is an annual payment of £120 towards the cost of essential school clothing to those on a low income.

## WHEN

The deadline for school clothing grants is 31<sup>st</sup> March.



Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

## Find help to balance your budget

If you're on tax credits or certain benefits, you could be entitled to five family payments.



[mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot)

 0800 182 2222

## **Scottish Child Payment**

A payment of £40 every 4 weeks for each eligible child under the age of 6.

## **Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment**

A £606 payment for a first child and £303 for other children. Plus an extra £303 if you have a multiple birth. You can apply from 24 weeks of pregnancy until your baby is 6 months old.

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

A £252.50 payment when a child is between the ages of 2 and 3.5 years. You can still apply if your child is not taking up a place at nursery.

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

A £252.50 payment to help eligible families with the costs of starting school. Visit [mygov.scot/beststart](https://mygov.scot/beststart) for application dates and guidance on when to apply even if you are deferring.

## **Best Start Foods**

Money every 4 weeks on a pre-paid card from pregnancy until your child is 3 years old.

**Check if you are eligible and apply now at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits) or by calling 0800 182 2222.**

You may also be eligible for other benefits. Make sure you're not missing out by speaking to the Citizen's Advice Scotland Money Talk Team on 0800 085 7145.



**HAPPY TO TRANSLATE**

This information can be provided in alternative languages or formats by calling 0800 182 2222.

# Early Learning & Childcare



## Early Learning and Childcare for 2 year olds

Early Learning and Childcare for 2 year olds is available in the following centres:

### South West Fife

Treetop Family Nurture Centre (Inverkeithing)  
Treetop Family Nurture Centre (Rosyth)  
Inzievar Primary School Nursery  
Kings Road Primary School Nursery  
Park Road Primary School Nursery  
Torryburn Primary School Nursery

### Dunfermline

Beanstalk Family Nurture Centre (Fergus Place)  
Beanstalk Family Nurture Centre (Aberdour Road)  
Lynburn Primary School Nursery  
Halbeath Nursery

### Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly

Clentry Nursery  
Cowdenbeath Primary School Nursery  
Crossgates Primary School Nursery  
Denend Primary School Nursery  
Cardenden Primary School Nursery  
Dunmore Nursery  
St. Bride's RC Primary School,  
Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre Annex  
Sunflower Family Nurture Centre (Melgund Place)  
Sunflower Family Nurture Centre (McGregor Road)

### North East Fife

Auchtermuchty Primary School Nursery  
St Andrews Nursery  
Westfield Family Nurture Centre  
St Monans Primary School Nursery  
Leuchars Primary School Nursery

### Glenrothes

Carleton Nursery  
Ladybird Family Nurture Centre  
Rimbleton Primary School Nursery  
South Parks Primary School Nursery  
Southwood Primary School Nursery  
Pitteuchar East Primary School Nursery

### Kirkcaldy

Burntisland Primary School Nursery  
Dysart Primary School Nursery  
Fair Isle Family Nurture Centre  
Gallatown Nursery  
Pathhead Primary School Nursery  
Valley Primary School Nursery

### Levenmouth

Buckhaven Primary School Nursery  
Kennoway Primary and Community School Nursery  
Mountfleurie Primary School Nursery  
Paxton Nursery  
Viewforth Nursery  
Woodlands Family Nurture Centre  
Methilhaven Care Home Nursery

We can also offer funded placements for eligible 2 year olds with private nurseries, playgroups and childminders in partnership with Fife Council.

Please go to <https://www.fife.gov.uk/early-learning> for an up to date list of Funded Providers that can offer places.

Fife Council have a number of centres that offer Early Learning and Childcare to children who are 2 years of age. These are offered to eligible children in line with criteria set down by The Scottish Government.

#### What is available?

Early Learning and Childcare Places are available for 1140 hours per year, either term-time or full-year dependent on the setting. Places are offered in the Fife Council nurseries listed overleaf, as well as with Funded Providers such as private nursery, playgroup and childminders in partnership with Fife Council.

#### Who is eligible?

If your family is receiving any of the following benefits, then your child may be eligible for a place:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC) and income is £16,105 or less
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) AND Working Tax Credit (WTC) and income is £7,320 or less
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with household take-home pay of £610 a month or less

Your child may also be eligible if they are looked after, under a kinship care or guardianship order. If this applies to you please contact your Social Worker who will be able to refer you to our LAC Family Support team. This team provide extra support to make sure any placement meets your needs.

Your child may also be eligible if you have been looked after, under a kinship care or guardianship order as you were growing up. Please enquire at your local nursery offering two-year-old places for further details.

If your child has additional support needs or you feel your family needs extra support, then you may also be able to access some Early Learning and Childcare

for your two-year-old child. Please discuss this with your Health Visitor, Social Worker or Educational Home Visitor who supports your family. They will be able to complete a separate referral form with you if they feel an application is appropriate.

#### When can my child start?

Nursery intakes for eligible 2 year olds happen three times during the academic year.

- If your child is eligible and turns 2 between 01/03/2021 and 31/08/2021, they will be eligible to access funded ELC from **August 2021**.
- If your child is eligible and turns 2 between 01/09/2021 and 31/12/2021, they will be eligible to access funded ELC from **January 2022**.
- If your child is eligible and turns 2 between 01/01/2022 and 28/02/2022, they will be eligible to access funded ELC from **April 2022**.

Applications for 2-year-old places can be made a maximum of 2 months before a child's anticipated start date.

#### How do I apply?

Application forms are available from any Fife Council nursery or can be downloaded online from <https://www.fife.gov.uk/early-learning>. These should be fully completed and can be handed into any Fife Council nursery with 2 year old provision along with:

- Up to date evidence of any benefits / tax credits you receive,
- Your child's birth certificate or passport, and;
- Proof of your current address

Your application will be assessed at the next available Nursery Panel meeting. These meetings take place each term to award places for the following term. If you are offered a place for your child in a Fife Council nursery, you will be notified in writing.

**Please note that the place you are offered may not be in your local nursery.**

Further information can be found at <https://www.fife.gov.uk/early-learning>

Assistance

Carnegie staff are more than happy to help you to complete application forms before submitting!

# Carnegie Supports



Available outside the Nursery most Thursdays. Please help yourself!



New or nearly new school uniform please just ask a member of staff!



We can access these organisations and services and many others on your behalf.



## SIGNPOSTING SUPPORTS IN THE AREA

Free and reduced activities for children - Visit [www.fife.gov.uk/fifefamilies](http://www.fife.gov.uk/fifefamilies) Taking place across Fife at various venues you'll find details about sessions and locations in your area.



Free bus travel for Under 22s - For help to apply for the National Entitlement Card, which gives free bus travel, call 03451 550066 to book an appointment.

There is a range of advice, support and benefits which we can help you access. Visit [www.fife.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.fife.gov.uk/benefits) to see how we may be able to help you



Community pantries and community fridges - visit our website for opening times and locations of a huge number of community food programmes. <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/benefits-and-money-advice/food-banks/access-to-food-locations>