

At a glance - Childcare Costs

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Help with eligible childcare costs is an additional amount of Universal Credit and is subject to the 63% earnings taper applied to an overall award.

Claimants can claim 85% of their eligible childcare costs up to a monthly limit of £646.35 for one child and £1,108.04 for two or more children.

Help with eligible childcare costs is available where the claimant or both claimants in a joint claim are in paid work, or have accepted an offer of paid work due to start before the end of the next Assessment Period.

Claimants can receive an amount for eligible childcare costs regardless of the number of hours they work.

Eligibility conditions

The claimant or both claimants in a joint claim must satisfy both the childcare cost condition and the work condition within the relevant assessment period.

Childcare cost condition

To meet the childcare costs condition the claimant must satisfy both of the following:

- Be responsible for a child or qualifying young person (QYP). A child is a person under 16 and at age 16 to the 1st September following their 16th birthday they become a QYP.
- Have paid for and reported charges for relevant childcare in the assessment period in which they were paid

Work condition

To meet the work condition the claimant or both claimants in a joint claim must satisfy one of the following:

- Be in paid work
- Be about to start paid work before the end of the next assessment period
- Have ceased paid work in the current or previous assessment period
- Have just finished paid work no more than a month before the date of claim and be in either their first or second assessment period of their initial claim

Note: Exceptions to the work condition can apply if the claimant is part of a couple.

All available help with paying for childcare including the wider Government offer is on [Gov.UK website](#).

For more information, see [Childcare costs guidance](#).