

## Childcare Entitlement Videos Transcripts

### Tax Free Childcare

Hello my name is Gemma Ferguson and I am the Early Years Engagement Officer as part of the Early Years Team at Swindon Borough Council. I would like to talk to you today about the Tax Free Childcare.

Tax Free Childcare is a government top up fee on the childcare costs that you pay. Further information can be found on the Childcare Choices website at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

It also includes how to set up an online childcare account. For every £8 you pay in to this account, the government will pay £2 to use to pay towards your childcare provider. You can get Tax Free childcare and 30 Hours at the same time if you are eligible for both.

The Tax Free childcare eligibility includes if you are working, your income and your partner's income (if you have one) your child's age and circumstance, your immigration status. If you are working you can usually get Tax Free childcare if you and your partner are in work, on sick leave or annual leave, or on shared parental, maternity, paternity and adoption leave. If you are on adoption leave, you cannot apply for the child you are on leave for unless you are going back to work within 31 days of the date in which you first applied.

If your working pattern has now changed due to COVID-19 you may still be eligible for Tax Free childcare if you are temporarily working less hours and you are either now on furlough, through the COVID job retention scheme, you're claiming the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant. If you are not currently working you may still be eligible if your partner is working and you get incapacity benefits, severe disablement allowance, carers allowance or contribution based employment and support allowance.

Your child must be 11 years old or under and usually live with you. They stop being eligible on the 1<sup>st</sup> September after their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Adopted children are eligible for Tax Free childcare although foster children are not. If your child is disabled you may get up to £4,000 a year until they are 17 years old. They are eligible if they receive DLA-Disability Living Allowance, PIP- Personal Independence Payment, Armed Forces Independence payment or certified as blind or severely sight impaired. You may also be eligible for Tax Free childcare due to your immigration status. To be eligible for Tax Free childcare, you and your partner must have a National Insurance number and at least one of the following;

- British or Irish Citizenship
- Settled or Pre-Settled status
- Or have been living in the UK from the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 with the right to reside
- Permission to access public funds (your resident card will tell you if you cannot do this)

Unfortunately you cannot get Tax Free childcare at the same time as claiming Working Tax Credits, Child Tax Credits, Universal Credits or Childcare Vouchers. Which scheme you are better off with will depend on your individual situation. The childcare calculator on the Childcare Choices website will help you to work out which type of support is best for you.

If you would like further information on the Tax Free childcare please call my mobile on 07812759534 or call the council main switchboard on Swindon 01793 445500 or please send an email to [earlyeducation@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:earlyeducation@swindon.gov.uk) ([EY&CBrokerage@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:EY&CBrokerage@swindon.gov.uk))

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today and I look forward to hearing from you.