

# Universal Credit and Childcare costs

Universal Credit is a payment for people over 18 and under State Pension age who are on a low income (working or self-employed) or out of work. Some people on Universal Credit can get help with up to 85% of their childcare costs.

Universal Credit does not include help towards any payments made using childcare vouchers.

People can't get Tax Free Childcare and Universal Credit at the same time.

People can get help to pay childcare costs upfront. They should speak to their work coach about the Adviser Discretion Fund.

To get help with childcare costs, parents need to give us proof of their childcare provider, for example an original contract, invoice or letter. They also need to give us the following details:

- childcare provider's full name and childcare registration number
- address where the child is being cared for
- full contact details of the childcare provider including address and phone number
- the full cost of the childcare
- type of childcare e.g. after school, or nursery
- name(s) of the child(ren) being cared for

## WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED EACH MONTH

Each month, parents claiming Universal Credit need to provide us with proof of payment. This can be an invoice, letter or receipt from the childcare provider. It should clearly show:

- the name of each child for which childcare costs have been paid
- the date childcare costs were paid

- the amount that has been paid and
- the period the childcare costs covered, for example (1 January to 29 January 2020).



## Further Information

More information about Universal Credit, including childcare costs is available at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/universal-credit](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/universal-credit)

Available in alternative formats