



Acorn Playgroup and Pre-School

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Tax Free Childcare

We are inviting you to sign up now for Tax-Free Childcare. Applications can take up to a maximum of 10 working days to be approved, therefore we would urge you to do this as soon as possible to ensure the facility can be utilised for this term's invoice payments.

Tax-Free Childcare is a new online government service to help parents pay for their childcare.

If you're a working parent with children under 12 (or under 17 for disabled children), you can open an online account to pay for registered childcare. The government will top-up the money you pay into the account and for every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2. You can receive up to £2,000 **per child** - that's up to £500 every three months. If you have a disabled child, you can receive up to £4,000 per child - that's up to £1,000 every three months. You **can** also use it with the both the 15 hours and 30 hours funded childcare schemes.

You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £120 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage). If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible. If either you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more, you can't get Tax-Free Childcare.

You can use it to help pay:

- Registered childminders, nurseries and nannies
- Registered after-school clubs and play schemes
- Registered schools
- Home care workers working for a registered home care agency

Acorn Playgroup and Pre-school are now registered to receive Tax-Free childcare payments and the government has started inviting parents to apply. To sign up for Tax-Free Childcare or to check availability please visit the government Childcare choices website at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> Please select the Tax-free childcare link and then select option 4 'Apply or sign in to the childcare service as a parent'. Make sure you have (for you and your partner, if applicable):

- your National Insurance number or Unique Taxpayer Reference number if you are self-employed,
- the date you started, or are due to start work
- access to a mobile phone or landline
- details of any other government support you receive
- details of one or more of the following - your UK Passport, tax credits, P60 or a recent payslip

To access this system for the first time you will need to set up a Government Gateway Account, if you don't already have one you will be prompted to set one up. This process will take approximately 5 minutes. If you already have an existing Government Gateway Account you can sign in using your existing log in details.

If you are eligible and your application successful, you will be required to enter your childcare provider details before payments can be sent to us. This can be done by entering, when requested, our Early years no **458165** and the Acorn Playgroup and Pre-school postcode **AL6 9FN**. **Please note when entering these details to leave a space between the EY number and postcode and, to enter the postcode in capital letters with no spaces between the 6 characters.**

Please note, that you cannot use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as childcare vouchers, salary sacrifice scheme, Universal Credit or tax credits so before you start check which support might be best for you, using the childcare calculator below.

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

If you require and assistance with the application process, the Childcare Choices department can be contacted on 0300 1234097. Opening hours are Mon - Fri 8am - 8pm and Saturday 8am - 4pm.