

Explore Learning is registered on the Ofsted Voluntary Childcare Register. This means members attending centres in England can benefit from the government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

## What is Tax-Free Childcare?

Tax-Free Childcare is a government initiative. Eligible families can receive support with 20% of their childcare costs up to £2000 per child per year.

## Am I eligible?

To be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare, you or your partner (if you have one) must be earning over £140 per week and under £100k per year, including self-employed parents. The scheme is available for children up to the age of 12.

Full eligibility criteria can be found at: [gov.uk/tax-free-childcare](https://gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

## 6 steps to pay with Tax-Free Childcare

**1** Register through the [government website](#).

**2** You will create a childcare account for each of your children.

**3** Transfer money into the account to pay for your Explore Learning membership.

**4** Your funds will be 'topped up' by the government within 3 working days of making the deposit. For every £8 you pay in, the government will pay in £2 up to a maximum of £2000 per child per year.

**5** Once logged into your Tax-Free Childcare account you'll be able to search for your Explore Learning centre and set up a payment for the 1st of the month, with the frequency set to monthly. Your payments may take 3-5 working days to reach us after the payment date.

**6** Each child will have a Unique Reference Number with Tax-Free Childcare – you'll need to let us know this number when you're making your first payment so that we can link this number to your account. You'll only need to provide us with the reference number once.

## Why do I need to give you my Direct Debit details?

When families join the Tax-Free Childcare scheme it can take several weeks for you to be ready to make your first payment. In the meantime, we'll set up a Direct Debit so you can start having sessions. If you let us know once you've made the first transfer from your government childcare account to Explore Learning, we'll be able to refund any double payments and cancel future Direct Debit payments.

## Why do I need to call you once I have made the first payment?

The only way we'll be able to allocate your payment to your family's account is if we know your child's Unique Reference Number. Providing us with this will help us to identify the payment once it reaches us so we can get it allocated as quickly as possible. Once you have provided us with this reference number once, we'll store it in the system so you shouldn't have to provide it to us again.

## What happens if my membership price changes?

During your membership you may choose to change your membership package or earn discounts for referring friends. We'll confirm any changes with you and you will then need to amend the amount you send over to us to keep on track with your payments.