

Child Care in British Columbia

Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD)

MCFD offers services to children, youth, and parents. It helps people with special needs and those fighting addictions. For more information visit: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/>

Canada child benefits (CCB)

The Canada child benefit (CCB) is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age. The CCB might include the *child disability benefit* and any related *provincial and territorial programs*.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) uses information from your income tax and benefit return to calculate how much your CCB payments will be. To get the CCB, you have to file your return every year, even if you did not have income in the year. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, they also have to file a return every year.

Benefits are paid over a 12-month period from July of one year to June of the next year. Your benefit payments will be recalculated every July based on information from you and your spouse's (if applicable) income tax and benefit returns from the previous year.

The Canada Child Benefit provides a maximum annual benefit of \$6,639 per child under the age of six, and \$5,602 per child age 6 through 17 (starting from July 2019 to June 2020).



How do I apply for the Canada child benefit?

To apply for the Canada child benefit (CCB), follow the three-step process below:

- Step 1 – Find out if you are eligible
- Step 2 – Apply for the Canada child benefit
- Step 3 – Keep your information up to date

Step 1 of 3 – Find out if you are eligible

To be eligible for the CCB, you have to meet **all** of the following conditions:

- You must live with the child, and the child must be under 18 years of age.
- You must be primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of the child.
- You must be a resident of Canada for tax purposes.
- You **or** your spouse or common-law partner must be:
 - a Canadian citizen
 - a permanent resident
 - a protected person
 - a temporary resident who has lived in Canada for the previous 18 months, and who has a valid permit in the 19th month
 - an Indian within the meaning of the *Indian Act*, if you are not a Canadian citizen

Step 2 of 3 – Apply for the CCB

You can apply for the Canada child benefit (CCB) using **one** of the following ways:

- [Automated Benefits Application](#), when you register the birth of your newborn
- [My Account](#)
- [Form RC66, Canada Child Benefits Application](#)

Step 3 of 3 – Keep your information up to date

To continue receiving the benefit and credit payments that you are entitled to, file your income tax and benefit return **every year, even if you do not have income in the year**. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, they also have to file a return every year.

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Make sure you **keep your information up to date**. We need to know when your personal information changes so that you get the right payment. You need to contact the CRA when:

- your marital status changes
- you change your address
- you want to start, change or stop direct deposit
- the number of children in your care changes
- you start or stop sharing custody with another individual of one or more children
- a death has occurred
- you or your spouse or common-law partner's residency status has changed
- your notice shows outdated information

Affordable Child Care Benefit

On September 1, 2018, the Affordable Child Care Benefit replaced the Child Care Subsidy. The new funding will help families with the cost of child care, depending on factors like family size, type of care and household income. The Affordable Child Care Benefit is a monthly payment that helps BC families with the cost of child care. Eligibility for this subsidy depends upon both your income and family size.

How do I apply for the Child Care Subsidy?

Visit the following website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit>

Child Disability Benefit

The child disability benefit is a tax-free monthly payment made to families who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions.

If I have further questions about the Child Disability Benefit, where can I find the answers?

- 1) Visit the following website:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/child-disability-benefit.html>
- 2) If your answers are not answered on this page and/or you would like to speak with somebody directly please call 1-800-387-1193 and talk to a service agent.

How do I know if my child is eligible for the Child Disability Benefit?

To get the child disability benefit:

You must be eligible for the [Canada child benefit](#)

Your child must be [eligible for the disability tax credit](#)

If you are already getting the Canada child benefit for your child who is eligible for the disability tax credit, **you do not need to apply** for the child disability benefit. You will get it automatically.

Note:

A child is eligible for the disability tax credit when a medical practitioner certifies, on [Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate](#), that the child has a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions, and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) approves the form. You can send the form to the CRA at any time during the year.

Did you know that children learn by watching their caregivers? Thus, it is very important to always set a good example?

Did you know that it is illegal, in BC, to leave children under the age of 12 alone at home without any adult supervision?

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Parenting Tips

- Go over your child's school bus route with them. Find out how long it is and talk about bus safety.
- Help your child pack his/her bag and plan what they will wear the night before.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings. Talk about the excitement of starting at a new school and be understanding about any concerns your child might have.
- Take a school tour, to help your child find their way around the school.
- Read with your child and go to the library together. Let your child see you read and hear you talk about books.
- Encourage good study habits, organization and time management.
- Provide Encouragement. Find ways to support your child's efforts.
- Promote communication. Take an interest in your child's day to day activities.

Child Care Resources

Please see below for links to several websites that offer child care resources.

Developmental Disabilities Association

<http://develop.bc.ca/>

Children and Healthy Eating - health Canada

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/child-enfant/index-eng.php>

SD36 Learning Programs

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/EducationalPrograms/Pages/default.aspx>