

Tax Credits Advice Leaflet

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames



Compiled by
The
**Families
Information**
service

For further information telephone
020 8547 5004
(hold for Family Information Services option)
or visit www.kingston.gov.uk

Kingston
Children & Young People's Trust
Making a Difference Together



What are tax credits?

Tax credits are payments from the government. If you're responsible for at least one child or young person who normally lives with you, you may qualify for Child Tax Credit. You don't have to be working to claim Child Tax Credit. If you work, but earn low wages, you may qualify for Working Tax Credit. You can often get both types of tax credits. They aren't taxable.

Who can get tax credits?

Nine out of ten families with children qualify for tax credits, but you don't need to have children to claim. You may also qualify if you are working and on a low income.

How much do you get?

The total annual income limits that generally apply before your tax credits are reduced or stopped altogether are as follows:

- If you have children it is £41,300
- If you are single without children it is £12,900
- If you are a couple without children it is £17,700

We know that there are families in Kingston who would be eligible for some form of Tax Credits but for some reason are not claiming. Please contact the HMRC direct to see whether you might qualify.

Qualifying for Tax Credits after April 2011

Child Tax Credit

Families with a single or joint income under £40,000 may be eligible for Child Tax Credits. Remember you don't have to be working to be eligible for this.

Working Tax Credits

If you are working more than 16 hours a week and within the general income limits above you may be eligible to claim this. If you are paying for registered childcare you may be able to get help with childcare costs. This could amount to up to 70% of childcare costs up to a maximum of £175 per week for one child and £300 for two or more children. This means that the maximum help you can get through tax credits for your childcare will be:-

- £122.50 a week for one child.
- £210.00 a week for two or more children.

How tax credits work

If you're married, or living with a partner you'll need to make a joint claim for tax credits. You can only make a single claim if you don't have a partner.

The HMRC pay tax credits directly into your Bank, Building Society, Post Office® or National Savings account if it accepts Direct Payment - either weekly or every four weeks.

Who gets the payments?

If you're both working and you both qualify for Working Tax Credit, you can decide who'll get the payments.

If you're claiming Child Tax Credit and you're in a couple you need to decide which one of you is the children's main carer. If you're the main carer then the money will be paid to you.



How tax credits payments work

The tax credits payments you receive from the HMRC are based on your current personal circumstances and your income from the tax year that ended on the 4 April 2011. If you're making a new claim for tax credits your payments will usually run from the date of your claim to the end of the tax year.

Changes at home and work

If your circumstances change it can affect the amount of money you should be getting. So please contact the HMRC as soon as possible to tell them about any changes. If you do not tell them about any changes you may be liable to a penalty.



Contact the Tax Credit Office:-

Telephone – Tax Credits Helpline- 0845 300 3900

Opening Hours:-

- **8am-8pm Monday to Friday**
- **8am-4pm Saturday**
- **Closed Sundays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.**

For customers who are deaf or hearing or speech impaired:-

- **0845 300 3909 (Textphone)**

If you are calling from abroad please telephone:- 44 2890 538 192.

You can log onto the online tax credits calculator by logging on to:www.hmrc.gov.uk and follow the link for Tax Credits.