

Childcare benefits

In the Netherlands, citizens have the right to three different benefits: a **child allowance**, a **childcare allowance** (depending on parental income) and a **child budget** (also income-based). Individuals from other EU-member states generally have the right to these benefits as well when they have children. For migrants there is the requisite of having a residence permit. No minimum number of years of residence in the Netherlands is connected, however, with reception of this benefit. People residing in the Netherlands receive the following **child allowance budget** every 3 months for children aged 0-18: 191.65 euro (0-5 years), 232.71 euro (6-11) and/or 273.78 euro (12-17). For the **childcare allowance**, a maximum of 230 hours is partly refunded. Individuals are only entitled to a **child budget** when the family income is not higher than 35,000 euro/year (when having one child, this goes up to 50,000 when having 5 children). Furthermore, the accumulated wealth of a person is also taken into account, and cannot be higher than 21,330 euro. The maximum monthly amount of the benefit is 1,032 euro (1 child), 1,823 euro (2 children), 2,006 euro (3 children) or 106 euro extra per child when having four children or more.

Decline in the use of formal childcare

The consumption of formal childcare in the Netherlands decreased over the last years, with rising costs of formal child care being one of the main reasons (Michiels, Huynen, & Dirven, 2015; Portegijs, Cloin, & Merens, 2014). Between 2005 and 2009, for example, parental costs increased, whereas from 2009 onwards, support for formal childcare decreased (Michiels et al., 2015). The government and employers, for example, decreased their share in the costs of formal child care from 76 per cent in 2009 to 63 per cent in 2013 (Michiels et al., 2015).

References

- Michiels, J., Huynen, B., & Dirven, H.-J. (2015). Arbeidsdeelname niet gedaald bij toegenomen kosten kinderopvang. Economisch Statistische Berichten, 100(4703), 92-94.
- Portegijs, W., Cloin, M., & Merens, A. (2014). *Krimp in de kinderopvang. Ouders over kinderopvang en werk*. Den Haag: Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau.