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Family benefits

Parental leave

Parental leave

General information

Every parent is entitled to parental leave for childcare and education. This applies to children up to the **age of 3**.

Parental leave is an entitlement of the employee vis-à-vis the employer.

The employment relationship is suspended during parental leave. You therefore do not go to work. After parental leave, you can return to work.

Here are the most important rules:

Joint parental leave

Both parents can take up to **3 years of parental leave** at the same time.

Flexible 24 months

A transfer of a maximum of 24 months to the period between the child's 3rd and 8th birthday is possible. The employer's consent is not required.

Application

There is no application for parental leave. You register your parental leave with your employer in writing and with a signature.

⇒ **Here you can find a [sample form for notifying your employer of parental leave \(pdf\)](#)**

The **notification period** for parental leave (up to the age of 3) is **7 weeks**.

The **notification period** for parental leave between the 3rd and 8th birthday is **13 weeks**.

Parental leave can be divided into **3 periods** for each parent. Further periods can be agreed with the employer's consent.

Protection against dismissal during parental leave

Once parental leave has been registered, the employer may not terminate the employment relationship.

Parental allowance and child benefit

Parental allowance

Parental allowance is a compensation for previous income. You receive parental allowance if you work less or not at all after the birth. You then have more time to look after your child in the first


few months. Even if you had no income before the birth, you can still receive parental allowance.

If you are not from an EU country, you must have a **valid residence permit**. The parental allowance office will check whether you can receive parental allowance.

There are three types of parental allowance: Basic Parental Allowance, Parental Allowance Plus and Partnership Bonus.

Further information and application:

 **Parental allowance office of the district** Höxter  Moltkestr.12, 37671 Höxter , @ elterngeld@kreis-hoexter.de

 **www.familienportal.nrw/elterngeld** On the family portal you will find the **application as a PDF and the online application**. To submit the application online, you need a BundID account. "Username and password" is sufficient. All you need is a valid e-mail address.

 **[Website of the federal family portal](#)** (in different languages).

Child benefit


All parents with a **residence permit** are **entitled to child benefit**. You must **apply for** child benefit yourself at the **family benefits office**. This pays out child benefit for every child from birth until **the age of 18**.

For the first two children, you will receive **219 euros per month per child**. For the third child you will receive 225 euros and for each additional child 250 euros.

Responsible family benefits office:

Federal Employment Agency, Detmold Family Benefits Office

 Braunenbrucher Weg 18, 32758 Detmold

 02318422286 oder [+49 \(0\) 8004555530](tel:+49308004555530)

@Familienkasse-Nordrhein-Westfalen-Ost@arbeitsagentur.de

Further information and application:

 **[Website of BAMF](#)** (brochure in German, English, Turkish and Russian)

 You can find the **online application form** at www.familienkasse.de.

 **[Website of the federal family portal](#)** (in various languages)