

This information is based upon the Milk and Healthy Snack (Scotland) Regulations 2021 which you are advised to read prior to application, and should be read in conjunction with the Guidance for the Scheme.

Regulations: [The Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Guidance: [Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme: guidance for local authorities and day care settings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Purpose of the Scheme

1. The Scottish Government's ambition is to ensure that as many children as possible attending eligible settings are in receipt of the milk and healthy snack policy, embedding the habit of regular consumption of high-quality dairy produce and fruit and vegetables from an early age. The purpose of the Scheme is to support improvement in children's health in the earliest years, which is crucial in tackling health inequalities.

Eligibility for the Scheme

2. Childcare settings which are registered with the Care Inspectorate and which provide care to pre-school children for 2 hours or more per day are eligible to apply to join the Scheme.

Benefit

3. Under the Scheme, a pre-school child who is attending childcare for more than 2 hours per day should receive once in the day, the following benefit:

- 189mls of first infant formula for children under 12 months

189mls (1/3 pint) - or a 200ml container- of

- plain fresh cow's milk (whole milk for children 1 year and over, including the option of semi-skimmed milk for children 2 years and over);

- or, where children cannot consume cow's milk for medical, ethical or religious reasons, plain fresh goat or sheep milk (whole milk for children 1 year and over or to include semi-skimmed milk for children 2 years),

- or where children cannot consume cow's milk, goat's milk and sheep's milk for medical, ethical or religious reasons a specified unsweetened calcium-enriched non-dairy alternative;

- AND a healthy snack portion (fruit or vegetables) per child per day.

4. Childcare providers should offer cow's milk to children except where children may not drink this for medical, ethical or religious reasons. In these instances, settings should offer a sheep or goats milk, or where those are not acceptable, a specified, unsweetened non-dairy alternative may be offered (details on specification will be included in the guidance). First infant formula can be provided for children up to the age of 12 months.

Funding

5. Funding for the Scheme will be provided via the local authority which will confirm the payment arrangements.
6. Funding provided via the Scheme must be used for the specified benefit only. Families should not be charged for a benefit which has been funded via the Scheme.
7. A childcare provider that is no longer entitled to a payment under the Scheme due to a change in circumstances must inform the Local Authority (acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers) of that change as soon as reasonably practicable.
8. Where there has been a significant change to the number of eligible children enrolled, or to the benefit to be provided in relation to a payment period, the childcare provider must notify the Local Authority (acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers).

Guidance

9. Registered childcare providers must have regard to any guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers with respect to the operation of the Scheme.

Provision of information

10. Registered childcare providers must provide specified information as requested by the Local Authority in relation to the Scheme. Information that may be required is listed within the regulations.

Completing data on anticipated servings

11. The information requested on anticipated servings is to enable us to calculate your payment. While children under the age of 6 months would not be offered solid food, for the purposes of administration we ask you to count 1 serving for each day a pre-school child would be offered the benefit under the Scheme, without making this age distinction. So, if 3 pre-school children aged 5 months, 2 and 5 attend your provision 3 times a week for 2 hours or more, the number of anticipated servings in that week would be 9.

Definitions

12. Where sessions are referred to please provide information on any period in which care is provided for a child for a total of 2 or more hours in a day.