

To claim a child as your dependent, the child must:

- Have lived with you for at least half of the year.**
- Be related to you as a son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of those.**
- Be 18 or younger at the end of the year (can be 24 or younger if a student).**
- Be younger than you (or your spouse, if married filing jointly) unless the child is disabled.**

On top of the personal exemption for each of your dependents, you may qualify for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) for each qualifying child who was *16 or younger* for the entirety of last year.

The CTC is a non-refundable credit (worth up to \$1,000 for each child), but if your tax liability is reduced to zero, the Additional Tax Credit (ACTC) is a refundable credit for the portion of the CTC that couldn't be used (up to \$3,000).

Step 2: Get tax breaks for child and dependent care.

Care expenses for children (12 or younger during the tax year) or individuals who are physically or mentally unable to care for themselves may qualify you for the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Remember: You (and your spouse, if you file jointly) must be employed and have earned income* to claim this credit.

First, it's important to distinguish who the care provider was.

Was your care provider any of the following?

- Your spouse
- A parent of the qualifying dependent
- A dependent you claim who is not at least 19 years old
- Your child who is not at least 19 years old

If you checked any of the boxes above, you *won't* qualify for this credit.

If you didn't check any boxes, fill in the information below:

Number of dependents 12 or younger during the tax year: _____

Amount spent on child care for the child(ren) above: \$ _____

Amount paid by your employer for any child care: \$ _____

The Child and Dependent Care Credit is worth up to 35% of the expenses not covered by your employer's contributions.

The maximum is \$3,000 for one dependent, and \$6,000 for two or more dependents. How much you receive depends on your AGI, which will be calculated when you file.

*One spouse may be considered as having earned income if they were a full-time student or were physically or mentally unable to care for themselves.

Step 3: File with 1040.com!

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