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Elterngeld — Parental Allowance in Germany

Elterngeld is a state benefit for German parents caring for children, providing 65-67% of previous net salary (€300-1,800/month) for 12-14 months after birth.

Deutsche Begriffe: Elterngeld | ElterngeldPlus | Elternzeit | Basiselterngeld

Elterngeld — Parental Allowance

What is it?

Elterngeld is money from the state for parents who care for a child and do not work (or work less).

How much will you get?

65-67% of your last net salary, but:

- Minimum: **€300/month**
- Maximum: **€1,800/month**

Examples:

Net salary	Elterngeld	
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€1,500	~€1,000	
€2,500	~€1,625	
€3,500	€1,800 (max)	

How long?

Basiselterngeld (basic):

- **12 months** for one parent
- **+2 months** if the other parent also takes it (14 months total)

ElterngeldPlus:

- Half the amount, but **double the time** (up to 28 months)
- Ideal if you work part-time

Who can get it?

- You live in Germany
- You live with the child and raise it
- You work max 32 hours/week
- Income below €200,000 annually (or €300,000 for couples)

How to apply?

1. Where: Elterngeldstelle in your city

2. When: After birth, but **retroactively max 3 months**

3. Documents:

- Child's birth certificate
- Certificate from employer
- Pay stubs (12 months before birth)
- Certificate from Krankenkasse (health insurance)

Elterngeld vs Kindergeld

These are **DIFFERENT** benefits!

- **Kindergeld** (€255) — you get it ALWAYS until age 18
- **Elterngeld** — only for 12-14 months after birth

Important!

- Apply AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (retroactive payment only 3 months)
- You can split it with your partner as you wish
- You can combine it with part-time work

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