



Early Learning and Child Care

**LET'S PLAY (MAATAWAYTAAK) PROGRAM HANDBOOK
NOVEMBER, 2023**

MN-S MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

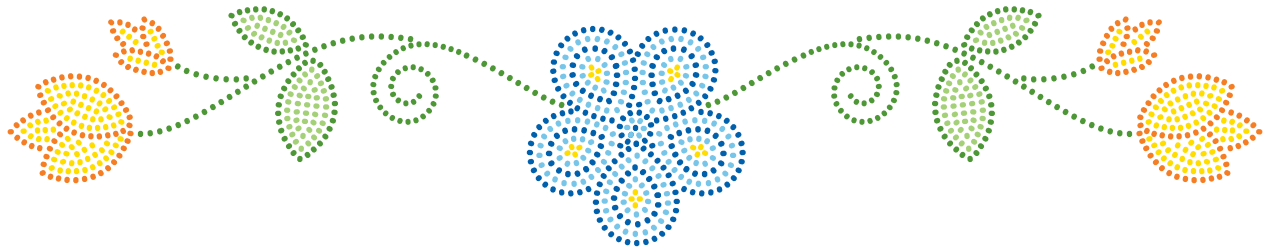
The Let's Play (Maatawaytaak) Program is a reimbursement program designed to provide families, with Metis children, financial support for extra-curricular fees, equipment, and specialized clothing related to the activity or equipment.

The program supports the social, physical, and mental well-being of Métis children and helps promote healthy growth and development. The goal is to get children active and involved in their culture and/or community.

Although this program is a reimbursement program, we do recognize that this can be a barrier for some families. If you are interested in an extra-curricular activity, equipment, or specialized clothing for your child, but are unable to pay for the cost ahead of time, please reach out to letsplay@mns.work for other options.

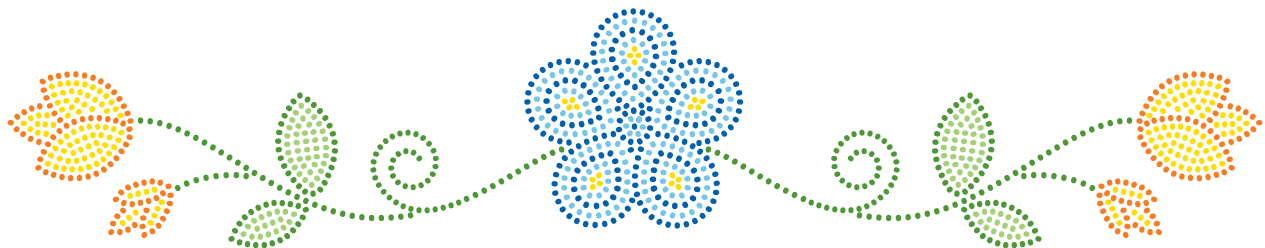
The Let's Play (Maatawaytaak) Program will run from November 2023, to March 31, 2024.

Please forward any general questions to letsplay@mns.work



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Eligibility

Here's what you need to know to qualify under this year's program:

- The child must be between the ages of 0 to 8 years old.
- The child must be an MN-S citizen or in the process of acquiring citizenship. Visit our website <https://metisnationsk.com/citizenship/> for citizenship information.
- The applicant (parent/guardian) must be able to provide proof of purchase of extra-curricular fees or proof of purchase of equipment or clothing pertaining to the activity (see list of eligible expenses). There may be options if upfront cost is a barrier (see guidelines).
- The applicant (parent/guardian) may receive up to \$500.00 per child.
- The applicant (parent/guardian) and child must reside within Saskatchewan.
- The applicant (parent/guardian) applying must reside with the child participating in the program.

Guidelines

- This is a reimbursement program, meaning payment will be issued AFTER the fees have been paid by the parent/guardian and receipt has been submitted to MN-S. If payment for an extra-curricular activity, equipment, or specialized clothing is a barrier, please reach out to letsplay@mns.work to discuss other options.
- Families may receive up to \$500 per eligible child.
- Families only need to apply once for their child/ren (you can apply for multiple children on one application)
- You can submit as many receipts as you wish (up to \$500 per child) as long as the purchases were made between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024.
- Reimbursement cannot be transferred between program years.
- Reimbursement cannot be combined or shared between siblings.
- For children turning 9 years old in the program year, eligible receipts must be dated before the child's 9th birthday.
- Applications and receipts cannot be submitted for children who are not yet born.
- Reimbursement for any activity, equipment, or specialized clothing is at the sole discretion of MN-S.
If you are unsure whether your expense will be reimbursed you must receive prior approval, in writing, before making a purchase. (Please check the List of Eligible Expenses in this handbook before requesting written approval).

Dates to Remember

- Applications open November 2023
- Applications will continue to be received until March 31, 2024, or when the budget is expended, whichever comes first.
- All receipts must be submitted between November 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, or before the budget is expended, whichever comes first.
- MN-S will accept receipts dated back to April 1, 2023 (no earlier) and up to March 31, 2024. Receipts **MUST** be dated within this range to be eligible.

List of Eligible Expenses

- Please note these lists are not complete and may not be guaranteed. MN-S may make additions or changes at any time. If the activity, equipment, or specialized clothing is not listed below or you are unsure if it is an eligible expense, please reach out to letsplay@mns.work. **Do not make purchases before confirming your item is eligible.**

Extra-Curricular Activities Eligible for Reimbursement:

Hockey	Softball	Cheerleading	Singing
Ringette	Tennis	Tae-Kwon-Do	Drama/Acting
Skating	Golf	Parkour	Archery
Curling	Swimming lessons	Special Olympics	Parent/Tot groups
Football	Bowling	Equestrian	Play Pass (indoor playgrounds, trampoline park, etc.)
Soccer	Wrestling	Girl Guides	
Lacrosse	Karate	Scouts	
Badminton	Judo	Cadets	Harvesting/fishing
Basketball	Martial Arts	Art/Beading	Fencing
Volleyball	Gymnastics	Music	Cricket
Rugby	Dancea/Jigging	Cooking	STEM Classes
Trapping lessons	Boxing	Handball	Canoe/Kayak
Skiing	Snowboarding	Track and Field	Pottery
Pumpkin patch/ Corn maze admission	Leisure Center Pass		

Equipment Eligible for Reimbursement:

Bicycle	Scooter	Rollerblades
Skateboard/knee board	Ski's (<i>cross, downhill, water</i>)	Snowshoes
Sled	Fishing rod/tackle	Balance bike
Trampoline	Archery bows/arrows/target	Basketball hoop
Goalie net	Dartboard	Horse tac
Soccer ball, football, baseball, etc.	Baseball Bat, lacrosse stick, hockey stick, etc.	Ninja lines
Beading Supplies	Art Supplies (<i>paint brush, easel, paint, etc.</i>)	Ride on toys (<i>non-electric</i>)
Swing set, climbing set, slide, blow up bouncers, etc.	Sit and stand activity toy	Sprinklers, splash pads, slip and slide, etc.
Bike trailer	Baby bike seat	Infant wrap/carrier
Jolly jumper	Activity play mat	Water/sand/sensory table
Exersaucer		

Specialized Clothing Eligible for Reimbursement:

Note: Only clothing that is mandatory for an extra-curricular activity or equipment can be reimbursed.

Uniforms/Clothing required for activity (jerseys, club clothing, etc.)

Protective Gear: Footwear, Headgear, Mouthguard, knee pads etc.

Footwear: equestrian boots, cleats, skates etc.

Goggles (skiing/swimming)

Water sport clothing (life jacket, wet suit, swim gear, etc.)

Winter sport clothing (must be related to an activity or equipment the child is using).

Winter sport footwear (must be related to an activity or equipment the child is using)

List of Ineligible Expenses:

Note: *This list is not complete. If you do not see your item on this list or any of the lists above, reach out to letsplay@mns.work before making any purchases.*

Electric equipment (bikes, scooters, ride on toys, etc)

Electronic Devices (tablets, phones, computers, gaming systems, etc)

Donations/mandatory fundraisers/volunteer fees/lottery tickets, etc.

Gatherings (birthday parties, family reunions, etc)

Entertainment tickets (movies, concerts etc.)

Table, chairs, bean bags, etc.

Adult work out equipment

Late fees/interest

Payments

All reimbursements will be paid to the applicant or co-applicant (parent/guardian) by direct deposit into the bank account provided to us. The banking information provided must match the applicant or co-applicant name. We require:

- Void cheque or a printout of your banking information
- Direct deposit (EFT) Form filled out.

If you have a change in bank, please advise your Family Support Administrator promptly to update your banking information.

Receipts

Proof of purchase is required. We will accept:

- Receipts
- Letter from the organization on official letterhead confirming the child's registration and date the payment was made.
- Dated e-transfer statements accompanied by proof of registration/purchase. The e-transfer statement must have enough information for us to link it to the purchase.

You can submit as many receipts as you want before the program closes or budget is expensed. Once \$500 is reached, you will be informed, and the file will be closed for that child.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Fill out and submit the Let's Play (Maatawaytaak) Program application form. The link is on the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) website.



A Family Support Administrator (FSA) will be assigned to your file. They will email you the next steps, which include providing your receipts and banking information.



Once all information is collected and eligibility is determined, your FSA will send you a confirmation email letting you know of your approval status.



You can continue to submit receipts for your child until you've reached the \$500 limit, per child, or when the budget is expensed, whichever comes first.



If you are having trouble paying costs up front reach out to your family support administrator to discuss other options.



Once you hit the \$500 limit, the file for that child will be closed. If you have other children in the program, their files will remain open until you've reached their \$500 limit.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I apply?

Online through the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan website.

When does the application portal open and close?

Applications will be accepted starting November 2023 through until March 31, 2024, or when budget is expensed, whichever comes first.

When will I find out if my child is accepted into the program?

Please allow up to 3 weeks for a Family Support Administrator to contact you regarding your application submission.

When will I receive a reimbursement?

Once you are approved and have been accepted into the program, please allow up to 4 weeks from the date you submitted your receipt to receive a reimbursement.

What if I can't afford to pay for the extra-curricular activity, equipment, or specialized clothing up front?

Contact letsplay@mns.work to discuss other options that may be available to you.

One of my children does not require reimbursement for anything. Can I use their funds for a sibling?

No. Funds are not transferrable between children.

If I do not use all the funds available this year, can I use them for future years?

No. Funds are not transferable between different program years.

I am expecting a child. Can I purchase items before the baby is born and submit an application?

No. All receipts for purchases for a child must be dated after the child is born. The child must also be in the process or have obtained their Métis citizenship.

Definitions

Applicant: Applicant refers to the parent or caregiver who will be applying for reimbursement for their child/ren.

Co-Applicant: Co-Applicant refers to a secondary parent or caregiver who will be listed on the application. This person can access information on the application.

Family Support Administrator (FSA): Refers to the main point of contact between the applicant and the program. The FSA will connect with you once an application is submitted and will be your main point of contact while you are accessing the program.

Reimbursement: Refers to money that is paid after a purchase has been made. Reimbursement amounts match that of the purchase.