



# Early Learning and Child Care

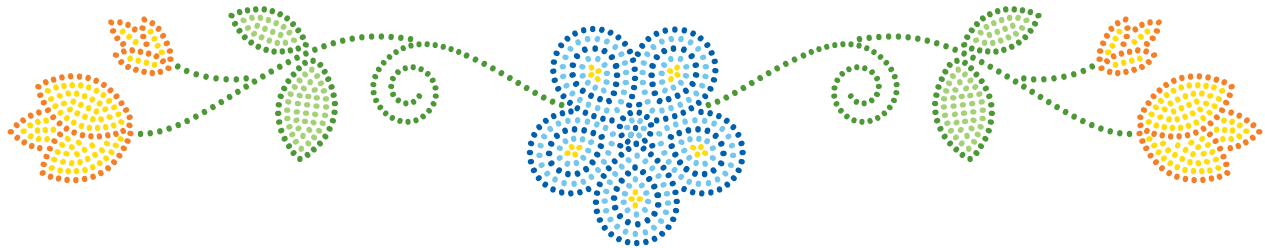
**MAATAWAYTAAK (LET'S PLAY) PROGRAM HANDBOOK  
SEPTEMBER , 2024**

MN-S MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

## The Maatawaytaak (Let's Play) Program - Handbook

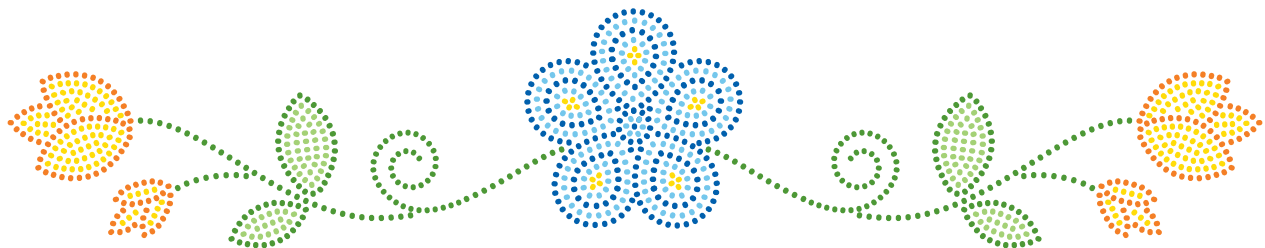
The Maatawaytaak (Let's Play) Program is a reimbursement program designed to provide families with Métis children support with their extra-curricular fees, equipment, and specialized clothing related to the activity or equipment. The program aims to support the social, physical, and mental well-being of Métis children and 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.ca](mailto:letsplay@mns.ca) for other options or general questions.



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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. Children become ineligible the month following their 9th birthday.
- The child must be an MN-S citizen or in the process of acquiring citizenship. Visit our website <https://metisnation.sk.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) 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.ca](mailto:letsplay@mns.ca) to discuss other options.
- Families may receive up to \$500 per eligible child.
- Families only need to apply once for their child/ren and can submit as many receipts as they wish (up to \$500 per child) if the receipts are dates between April 1 and March 31 for the current program year.
- Reimbursement cannot be transferred between program years.
- For children turning 9 years old in the program year, eligible receipts must be dated before the child's 9<sup>th</sup> 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).

## Taxes

The MN-S Maatawaytaak (Let's Play) Program funds are considered taxable income and may affect your income taxes.

This means that the funds you receive from the reimbursement will be added to your overall gross income and be taxed on. You will be issued a T4A in February, for the previous year.

## Dates to Remember

- Applications will continue to be received until March 15.
- All receipts must be submitted between April 1 and March 31 or before the budget is expensed, whichever comes first.
- MN-S will accept receipts dated back to April 1 and March 31 for the program year. 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. Please read through the list carefully. If the activity, equipment, or specialized clothing is not listed below, do not make purchases before confirming your item is eligible. If you are unsure if your activity, equipment, or specialized clothing qualifies, please reach out to [letsplay@mns.ca](mailto:letsplay@mns.ca) or contact your Family Support Administrator.

### 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	Dance/Jigging	Cooking	STEM Classes
Trapping	Boxing	Handball	Canoe/Kayak
Skiing	Snowboarding	Track and Field	Pottery
Pumpkin patch/ Corn maze	Farm experiences	Waterpark passes	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	Child size kayak
Basketball hoops	Archery bows/arrows/target	ninja lines
Goalie net	Dartboard	Horse tac
Soccer ball, football, baseball, etc.	Bat, lacrosse stick, hockey stick, etc.	Child stand-up paddle board Sit and stand activity toy
Sprinklers, splash pads, Slip and slide, etc.	Outdoor gross motor: swing, climbing set, bouncers, etc.	Infant wrap carrier
Ride on toys (non electric) Water/sand/sensory table pads,	Jolly jumper, Activity play mat, exersaucer, etc.	Musical Instrument/supplies
Games that promote fine or Gross motor activity	Fine moto toys (puzzles, Stacking toys, sorting games)	Art Supplies (Brush, paint, etc.)

### 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:

Electronic Devices (tablets, phones, computers, gaming systems, etc.)	Electric equipment (bikes, scooters, ride on toys, etc.)	Guns
Entertainment tickets (movies, concerts, etc.) Board games/card games	Amusement Park passes	Books
Donations/mandatory fundraisers/volunteer fees/lottery tickets, etc.	Camping Supplies (unless it is required for the activity).	Animal Habitats or items for pets/animals
Table, chairs, bean bags, etc.	Entertainment tickets (movies, concerts etc.)	Gatherings (birthday parties, family reunions, etc)
Adult work out equipment	Late fees/interest	Food supplements, drinks
Foosball/hockey tables	Fidget spinners	Escape rooms

### Payments

All reimbursements will be paid to the 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. Link found 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.**



**You can continue to submit receipts for your child until you've reached the \$500 limit, per child.**



**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. [metisnation.sk.com](https://metisnation.sk.ca)

### **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 6 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.ca](mailto:letsplay@mns.ca) 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 transferable 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.