request for Publications

All of the following forms and publications are available from the Internal Revenue Service at **www.irs.gov**.

For a free paper copy of any listed form or publication, please call **1-800-829-3676 (1-800-TAX-FORM).**

For additional questions about these credits and benefits you can call 1-800-829-1040.

- **Publication 501,** Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information
- **Form SS-5,** Application for a Social Security Card
- **Form W-7,** Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number
- **Publication 972,** Child Tax Credit
- **Form 8812,** Additional Child Tax Credit
- **Publication 503,** Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- **Form 2441,** Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- **Schedule 2, Form 1040A,** Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- **Publication 596,** Earned Income Credit
- **Schedule EIC,** Earned Income Credit
- **Form W-5,** Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate
- **Form 8839,** Qualified Adoption Expenses
- **Publication 970,** Tax Benefits for Education
- **Form 8814,** Parents' Election to Report Child's Interest and Dividends

FREE TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Sites, open from February 1 through April 15, offer free tax return preparation to individuals having low to moderate income. Call 1-800-829-1040 for a VITA site near you.

IRS

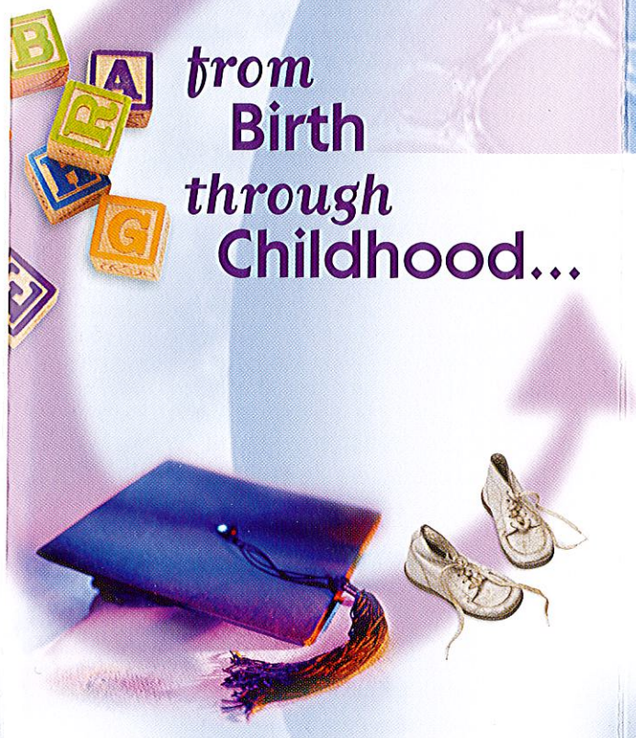
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov

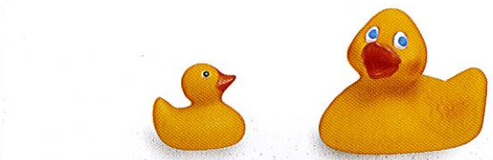
Publication 4156 (Rev. 5-2006)
Catalog Number 35821X

the LIFE CYCLE series

A series of informational publications designed to educate taxpayers about the tax impact of significant life events.



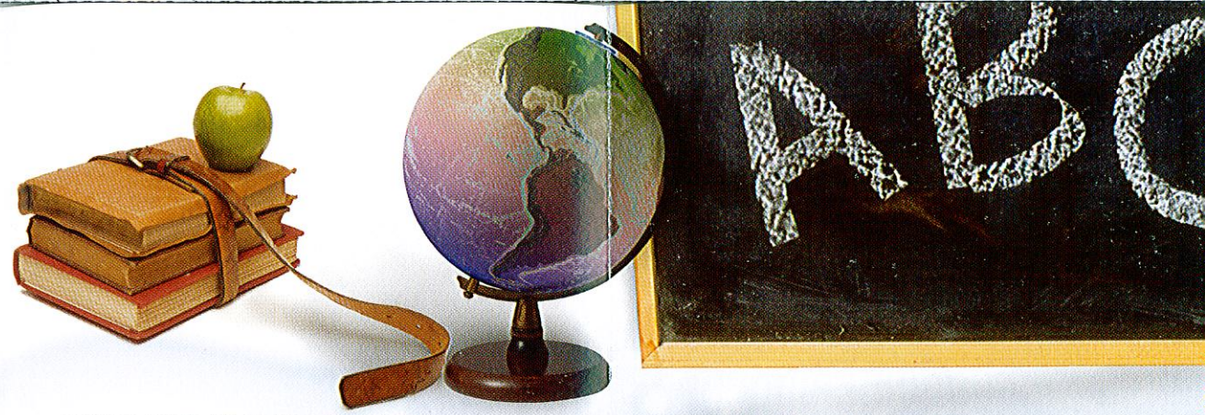
from Birth *through* Childhood...



Tax Benefits and Credits

This brochure is intended to inform taxpayers with children about the many IRS tax credits and benefits to which they may be entitled.

The listed benefits and credits can be claimed on Form 1040 or 1040A. Some of the benefits and credits are also allowable on Form 1040NR. Refer to the instructions for these forms for additional information.



DEPENDENT

In most cases, a child can be claimed as a dependent in the year in which he or she was born. The child must have a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). For children born in the United States, the TIN is generally a Social Security Number (SSN). If the child does not have an SSN and is eligible to receive one, apply for one as soon as possible by filing Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration. If the child is not eligible for an SSN, you may request an Individual Tax Identification Number from the IRS by completing Form W-7.

See IRS Publication 501, Form SS-5 and Form W-7

CHILD TAX CREDIT

The Child Tax Credit can reduce your tax. You may be able to take a credit on your tax return for each of your children under age 17.

See IRS Publication 972

ADDITIONAL CHILD TAX CREDIT

This credit is for individuals who do not benefit from the full amount of the Child Tax Credit. The additional Child Tax Credit may give you a refund even if you do not owe any tax.

See IRS Publication 972 and Form 8812

CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT

You may be able to claim the credit if you pay someone to care for your child under age 13 so that you can work or look for work.

See IRS Publication 503 and Form 2441 or Schedule 2

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a benefit for certain people who work and have earned income or are self-employed. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe. The EITC may also give you a refund.

See IRS Publication 596 and Schedule EIC

ADVANCE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

If you work for someone and expect to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, you can choose to get part of the credit in advance. Give your employer a Form W-5, and your employer will include part of the credit regularly in your pay. The advance payment is available only if you have at least one qualifying child.

See IRS Publication 596 and Form W-5

OTHER INFORMATION

Some children who have income may need to file their own return, even if you are eligible to claim them as a dependent. The charts in IRS Publication 501 will help you determine if your child needs to file a tax return.

See IRS Publication 501

REQUIRED FILING OF TAX RETURN BY CHILD UNDER AGE 14

Under certain circumstances, parents can elect to report their minor child's investment income on the parent's return. THEN, THE DEPENDENT DOES NOT HAVE TO FILE A RETURN.

See IRS Publication 501 and Form 8814

CHILD DIED IN YEAR OF BIRTH

If your child was born and died this year and you did not have an SSN for the child, you may attach a copy of the child's birth certificate to the tax return.

See IRS Publication 501

ADOPTION CREDIT

You may be able to take a tax credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. The credit may be more if the expenses are for the adoption of a child with special needs.

See IRS Form 8839

KIDNAPPED CHILDREN

A child who has been kidnapped may still qualify you for the following tax benefits:

- The exemption deduction for a dependent.
- Head of household or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child filing status.
- The Child Tax Credit.

See IRS Publication 501

COVERDELL EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ESA)

This savings account is used to pay qualified educational expenses at an eligible educational institution. For purposes of the Coverdell ESAs, an eligible educational institution includes a public, private, or religious school (kindergarten through grade 12) as determined under state law, as well as a college, university, vocational school, or other institution eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the Department of Education. Contributions are not deductible; however, qualified distributions are tax-free. Contributions can be made by eligible individuals in the child's name, but the total can not exceed the stated maximum for any one year.

See IRS Publication 970

QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS (QTP)

This tax benefit includes programs established and maintained by states and eligible educational institutions. No tax is due on a distribution from a QTP unless the amount distributed is greater than the beneficiary's adjusted qualified education expenses. Even if a QTP is used to finance a student's education, the student or the student's parents still may be eligible to claim either the Hope or Lifetime Learning Credit.

See IRS Publication 970