landfall

LANDFALL GUIDE · SCHOOLS & FAMILY

How do citizenship and passports work for our children?

THE SHORT ANSWER

A child born in the UK to a US citizen parent can usually become a US citizen too, which you record through a Consular Report of Birth Abroad. Being born in the UK doesn't automatically make a child British unless a parent is British or settled at the time of birth, but children can often register as British later.

For US citizens and green card holders moving to the UK. Build your free, personal move plan at **yourlandfall.com/plan**.

General information, not personal tax, financial, legal or immigration advice.

This is general information, not immigration advice. Citizenship depends on your family's exact circumstances.

US citizenship for a child born in the UK

A child born abroad to a **US citizen parent** is usually a US citizen at birth, as long as the parent meets **US physical presence or residence requirements** before the birth. These differ depending on whether one or both parents are US citizens.

To record it:

1. Apply for a **Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)** through the US Embassy in London. It's proof of US citizenship.
2. Apply for the child's **US passport**, usually at the same appointment.
3. Apply for a **Social Security number**. You'll need it to claim the US child tax credit.

For a passport for a child under 16, **both parents** usually need to give consent.

British citizenship for a child born in the UK

Being born in the UK doesn't automatically make a child British. A child born here **is British if, at the time of birth, a parent is**:

- a British citizen, or
- **settled** in the UK, for example with indefinite leave to remain.

If not, the child can often **register as British later**, for example once a parent becomes settled, or after living in the UK for their first ten years.

Children who move here with you

Children who aren't British usually come as **dependants** on a parent's visa. They may later be able to register as British, often around the time a parent naturalizes.

Dual nationality

The US and UK both allow it. A dual US–UK child should:

- **enter and leave the US on their US passport**
- have US tax filings if they ever have enough income, as for any US citizen

What to do next

See settlement and British citizenship, or build your move plan.

See every step for your move. Answer five questions and get a free plan in the right order: yourlandfall.com/plan