Government Subsidies for Infant Care and Child Care
Help defray preschool fees for Singaporean children

Who is eligible?
Child is a Singapore Citizen and enrolled in infant/child care centre licensed by ECDA

What are the available subsidies?

1. Basic Subsidy
   Higher amount if the applicant is working

2. Additional Subsidy
   For Singaporean children with:
   a. Working applicant
   b. Gross monthly household income\(^a\) of $7,500 and below or Per Capita Income\(^a\) of $1,875 and below for larger families

A working applicant refers to a mother or single father who works at least 56 hours per month
Includes full/part-time and freelance work arrangements

What is Special Approval?
The following applicants may apply for Special Approval for higher subsidy support:

1. Applicants who are not working due to the following circumstances:
   - Looking for a job
   - Studying / Training / On course (for at least 56 hours a month)
   - Pregnancy

2. Non-parent caregivers who are caring for the child such as grandparents, legal guardian, foster parents and children’s home

Note: Subsidies above are based on full day programmes.

How much can I receive?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working applicant</th>
<th>Non-working applicant</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infant Care</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non-working applicant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(aged 2 – 18 months)</td>
<td>Basic Subsidy</td>
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<tr>
<td>$600</td>
<td>Up to $540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Care</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(aged 18 months to 6 years)</td>
<td>$300</td>
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</table>

Basic Subsidy rates are based on the applicant’s employment status and programme type enrolled.
Additional Subsidy is means-tested. Lower-income families will receive more.

Subsidies will be directly disbursed to the child’s centre. You should only pay the net fee to the centre, after subsidy, financial assistance and Start-Up Grant. This can also be paid out of your child’s Child Development Account (CDA) balance.

Note: Subsidies above are based on full day programmes.

\(^a\) Before CPF deduction and include bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, and allowances
\# 5 or more family members, with at least 3 dependants who are not earning an income

Additional amount if the applicant is working

For Singaporean children with:

- Working applicant
- Gross monthly household income\(^a\) of $7,500 and below or Per Capita Income\(^a\) of $1,875 and below for larger families

Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Relevant supporting documents will be required. If granted, the assistance will be for a limited period of time, depending on the circumstances.
When will my subsidy eligibility be assessed/re-assessed?
- When child enrolls in new centre
- When child changes from infant care to child care
- When child changes from Nursery 2 (N2) to Kindergarten 1 (K1), i.e. at the end of N2

The level of subsidy will be first assessed at the point of enrolment and re-assessed at fixed points thereafter. Subsidy level will remain unchanged between points of assessment.

ECDA will notify you before the re-assessment of your income/employment status and update you of the outcome. No further action is required from you.

How do I apply?
- Complete the Subsidy Application Form (i.e. Form 1) with the relevant supporting documents and submit it to ECDA through your child’s centre.
- Ensure that your contact details (mobile number and email address) are provided in the form.

You will receive a SMS and email acknowledgement when ECDA receives the application. You will also be notified of the outcome via SMS and email.

What else do I need to note?
- Your child needs to attend preschool for at least one day in a month to receive the subsidy and/or financial assistance for that month.
- You may wish to download the Moments of Life (MOL) mobile application to use ECDA’s subsidy calculator to estimate the amount of subsidies your child may be eligible for.

Financial Assistance for Child Care and Start-Up Grant

Low-income families with difficult family circumstances, and who face difficulties paying child care fees even after receiving Basic and Additional Subsidies, can apply for financial assistance.

They can also apply for the one-time Start-up Grant, to pay for the initial costs of enrolling their child into an infant or child care centre.

- To apply, the child must be a Singapore Citizen and enrolled in an affordable infant or child care centre.
- Both parents are working (each working at least 56 hours per month), or have valid reasons if unable to work.
- Such applications must be supported by relevant documents.
- Families can speak to the child care operator for more information, or to apply at the centre, if they are eligible.

The Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) serves as the regulatory and developmental authority for the early childhood sector in Singapore.

www.ecda.gov.sg