

## FAQs for Infant/Child Care Centre

S/N	FAQ	Response
1.	<p><b>What subsidies are available for families with children enrolled in infant/child care centres?</b></p>	<p>There are two components under the Infant/Child Care Subsidy framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Subsidy is available for all children who are Singapore Citizens and currently enrolled in an ECDA-licensed childcare centre. The amount of subsidy that a family receives depends on the working status of the mother and the type of programme that the child is enrolled in.</li> <li>• Additional Subsidy applies to families with mothers who work at least 56 hours or more per month and the monthly household income (HHI) does not exceed \$7,500*.</li> </ul> <p>Larger households with at least 5 family members (with 3 or more dependants who are not earning an income) may choose to have their income assessed via per capita income (PCI), where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PCI = (Total gross monthly household income of family members) / (Number of family members living in the same household)</i></li> <li>• <i>All family members included in the application must be related by blood, marriage and/or legal adoption and living in the same residential address as reflected in the NRIC of the main applicant.</i></li> <li>• <i>Dependants refer to persons living in the same household who are not earning an income.</i></li> </ul> <p>*At the National Day Rally 2019, PM Lee announced that means-tested preschool subsidies will be enhanced to make preschools more affordable. The Government will raise the gross monthly household income ceiling for Additional Subsidy and Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) to \$12,000, or \$3,000 on per capita income (PCI) basis. The Government will also increase the subsidy amounts across all income tiers qualifying for Additional Subsidy</p>

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		and KiFAS. These enhancements will take effect from January 2020. The eligibility criteria for these means-tested subsidies remain unchanged. <b>Find out more <a href="#">here</a>.</b>
2.	<b>What is the eligibility criteria to receive Basic Subsidy and Additional Subsidy?</b>	<p>All parents with a Singapore Citizen child enrolled in an ECDA-licensed child care centre will receive Basic Subsidy. The amount will depend on the main applicant's working status and the programme type that the child is enrolled in.</p> <p>To qualify for Additional Subsidy, the main applicant should be working at least 56 hours per month, and the monthly household income should not exceed \$7,500*.</p> <p>*At the National Day Rally 2019, PM Lee announced that means-tested preschool subsidies will be enhanced to make preschools more affordable. The Government will raise the gross monthly household income ceiling for Additional Subsidy and Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) to \$12,000, or \$3,000 on per capita income (PCI) basis. The Government will also increase the subsidy amounts across all income tiers qualifying for Additional Subsidy and KiFAS. These enhancements will take effect from January 2020. The eligibility criteria for these means-tested subsidies remain unchanged. <b>Find out more <a href="#">here</a>.</b></p>
3.	<b>How will ECDA determine families' household income? What if household incomes become higher/lower next year?</b>	<p>For salaried employees, the gross monthly income is computed based on average income over the preceding 12-month period (before CPF deduction and including bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, and allowances).</p> <p>For self-employed persons, the gross monthly income is computed based on the annual trade income from the latest IRAS Notice of Assessment, divided by 12.</p> <p>To give parents greater certainty over the amount of subsidies they can receive, ECDA has introduced fixed points of assessment.</p> <p>Applicants' working status and household income will be assessed when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the child enrolls in new centre,</li> <li>(2) when the child moves from infant care to child care, and</li> <li>(3) when the child moves from Nursery 2 (N2) to Kindergarten 1 (K1), i.e. at the end of N2.</li> </ol>

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		<p>Changes in household income between these points of assessment will not affect the subsidies they receive, unless the parents wish to update ECDA and reapply for new rates of subsidies due changes in their circumstances.</p>
4.	<p><b>Can I apply for preschool subsidies as a single father?</b></p>	<p>Fathers who are single, widowed, divorced or undergoing separation are eligible for Basic and Additional Subsidy. They can apply as a “single father” and submit Form 1 along with the necessary supporting documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) If father’s name is in child’s birth certificate (BC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child BC</li> <li>• Marriage search record from Registry of Marriages / Muslim Marriages</li> </ul> </li> <li>(2) Not in child’s BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court Order</li> <li>• Police Report on the whereabouts of the mother</li> <li>• Marriage search record from Registry of Marriages / Muslim Marriages</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>After verification of the declared marital status and relationship with the child, the monthly household income will be determined based on the single income of the father.</p>
5.	<p><b>I am not a Singapore citizen (Permanent Resident or Foreigner). Will my child be eligible for the preschool subsidies?</b></p>	<p>Your child must be a Singapore Citizen and meets the eligibility criteria under the Infant/Child Care Subsidy Framework, in order to receive the Basic Subsidy and Additional Subsidy (if applicable).</p>
6.	<p><b>My child is adopted. Will he/she be eligible for the preschool subsidies?</b></p>	<p>Yes. An adopted child who is a Singapore Citizen and meets the eligibility criteria under the Infant/Child Care Subsidy Framework can qualify for the preschool subsidies. You will need to provide official documents for verification of eligibility.</p>

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7.	<b>If my child is currently in EIPIIC (Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children), does he/she qualify for Additional Subsidy?</b>	The EIPIIC programme has its own subsidy framework. Please see <a href="https://www.sgenable.sg">https://www.sgenable.sg</a> for details.
8.	<b>My child is withdrawn from the child care centre in the middle of the month. Is he/she eligible to receive preschool subsidies?</b>	<p>Children who are enrolled in full-day or half-day programmes are eligible for pro-rated subsidy during the month of withdrawal, based on the amount of fees paid by parents (e.g. 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks or full month's fee).</p> <p>The pro-rated subsidy rate is based on the working status of the subsidy applicant, the programme type enrolled and the fee payment amount.</p> <p>The child must also have at least one day of attendance in the centre to be eligible for the subsidy in the month.</p>
9.	<b>Will non-working mothers benefit from preschool subsidies?</b>	Yes. Non-working mothers are eligible for Basic Subsidy of up to \$150 per month, but not the Additional Subsidy. They may also be eligible for other benefits such as Baby Bonus and the Government's matching contribution in the Child Development Account which can be used to defray preschool expenses.
10.	<b>If I am unable to work due to medical reasons or with extenuating circumstances (such as taking care of sickly family members, or with a child with special needs), can I qualify for preschool subsidies?</b>	<p>Parents of all Singapore Citizen children who attend infant/child care, regardless of their working status, are eligible for Basic Subsidy.</p> <p>Mothers (or single father applicants) who are not working receive a Basic Subsidy of \$150.</p> <p>On a case-by-case basis, ECDA provides higher subsidies to non-working mothers under Special Approval. For example, non-working mothers who require child care services when they are in the midst of seeking employment, as well as mothers who are unable to work due to medical reasons or caregiving commitments, are considered for higher subsidy support.</p> <p>Parents can approach their child care centre personnel who will assist in applying for Special Approval:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For <u>new enrolment</u> – use Form 1 to apply for subsidy (including Special Approval).</li> <li>• For <u>existing enrolment</u> – use Form 2 to submit a new application for Special Approval or seek extension of subsidy support under Special Approval.</li> </ul> <p>The centre will be informed of the outcome of the assessment by ECDA.</p>
11.	<b>Will I enjoy Additional Subsidy if my child is enrolled in half-day programmes?</b>	Yes. Eligible children enrolled in half-day infant/child care programmes qualify for subsidies pro-rated at 50% of full-day infant/child care programmes.
12.	<b>How do I apply for the Basic Subsidy and Additional Subsidy?</b>	Please approach your child care centre personnel who will assist you with the application for preschool subsidies.
13.	<b>Can I use the Basic and Additional subsidies at all child care centres?</b>	Yes, as long as the child care centre is licensed with ECDA. The subsidies will be disbursed via the centre where your child is enrolled in. You will only need to pay the subsidised fees (i.e. child care fee less the Basic Subsidy and Additional Subsidy, if applicable).
14.	<b>Am I expected to update my centre if I stop working?</b>	<p>To give parents greater certainty over the amount of subsidies they can receive, ECDA has introduced fixed points of assessment.</p> <p>Applicants' working status and household income will be assessed when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the child enrolls in new centre,</li> <li>(2) when the child moves from infant care to child care, and</li> <li>(3) when the child moves from Nursery 2 (N2) to Kindergarten 1 (K1), i.e. at the end of N2.</li> </ol> <p>Changes in household income between these points of assessment will not affect the subsidies they receive, unless the parents wish to update ECDA and reapply for new rates of subsidies due changes in their circumstances.</p>
15.	<b>What is the minimum co-payment amount?</b>	Parents who are eligible for Additional Subsidy will be subject to a minimum co-payment amount. The minimum co-payment amount increases progressively as household or per capita income rises.

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		<p>For example, a family earning less than \$2,500 will minimally have to co-pay \$3 for child care, while a family earning \$4,501 - \$7,500 will have to co-pay at least \$215*.</p> <p>*At the National Day Rally 2019, PM Lee announced that means-tested preschool subsidies will be enhanced to make preschools more affordable. The Government will raise the gross monthly household income ceiling for Additional Subsidy and Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) to \$12,000, or \$3,000 on per capita income (PCI) basis. The Government will also increase the subsidy amounts across all income tiers qualifying for Additional Subsidy and KiFAS. These enhancements will take effect from January 2020. The eligibility criteria for these means-tested subsidies remain unchanged. <b>Find out more <a href="#">here</a>.</b></p>
16.	<b>How does a child care centre calculate the GST on childcare fee and subsidy?</b>	<p>For GST registered child care centres, GST is charged on the full value of the monthly fee before subsidy.</p> <p>Parent will have to pay net school fees after subsidy plus GST charged on the full value of the monthly fee.</p>
17.	<b>Is there additional help for larger families with many elderly or young dependants?</b>	<p>Larger households with at least 5 family members (with 3 or more dependants who are not earning an income) may choose to have their income assessed via per capita income (PCI), where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PCI = (Total gross monthly household income of family) / (Number of family members living in the same household)</i></li> <li>• <i>All family members included in the application must be related by blood, marriage and/or legal adoption and living in the same residential address as reflected in the NRIC of the main applicant.</i></li> <li>• <i>Dependants refer to persons living in the same household who are not earning an income.</i></li> </ul>

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18.	<b>Are there any other schemes available to help defray preschool expenses?</b>	You may use the Baby Bonus cash gift and the funds in the Child Development Account, where the government matches dollar-for-dollar contributions to defray kindergarten and child care expenses.
19.	<b>Can I receive further financial assistance, even after the Basic Subsidy and Additional Subsidy?</b>	<p>Yes. Low-income families with difficult family circumstances and face difficulties paying their preschool fees (even after receiving Basic and Additional Subsidy) can apply for <b>Child Care Financial Assistance</b>. These families can also apply for the one-time <b>Start-up Grant</b>, to pay for the initial costs of enrolling their child into an infant or child care centre.</p> <p>Children who are Singapore Citizens and placed in affordable child care centres can be considered for this financial assistance. Both parents should also be working at least 56 hours per month, or produce valid reasons for not working, such as he/she is on medical leave, under incarceration, looking for work or has been certified as a full-time caregiver for a dependant. Relevant supporting documents should accompany the application.</p> <p>Eligible families may apply for the assistance through the child care centre. For more information, please approach your child care centre.</p>
20.	<b>Will I receive notifications on my application status?</b>	Parents will receive system notifications via email and SMS on their subsidy application status and actions required (where applicable). Centres will also receive a copy of the notifications.