

FAQs for Kindergartens

S/N	FAQ	Response
1.	What subsidies are available for families with children enrolled in kindergartens?	ECDA provides Kindergarten Fee Assistance (KiFAS) to eligible Singapore Citizen children enrolled in kindergartens operated by Anchor Operators (AOPs) or the Ministry of Education (MOE).
2.	What is the eligibility criteria for KiFAS?	<p>To be eligible for KiFAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is a Singapore citizen and enrolled in an Anchor Operator (AOP) or Ministry of Education (MOE)-run kindergarten; and • *Family's gross monthly household income (HHI) is \$6,000 and below, or per capita income (PCI) is \$1,875. <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"> • <i>PCI = (Total gross monthly household income of family members) / (Number of family members living in the same household)</i> • <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> • <i>Dependants refer to persons living in the same household who are not earning an income.</i> <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</p>

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		<p>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. Find out more here.</p>
3.	<p>How will ECDA determine families' household income? What if household incomes become higher/lower next year?</p>	<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' household income will be assessed when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the child enrolls in new centre (2) when the child moves from Nursery 2 (N2) to Kindergarten 1 (K1), i.e. at the end of N2. <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>Can I apply for KiFAS as a single father?</p>	<p>Fathers who are single, widowed, divorced or undergoing separation are eligible for KiFAS. They can apply as a "single father" and submit KF1 along with the necessary supporting documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) If father's name is in child's birth certificate (BC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child BC • Marriage search record from Registry of Marriages / Muslim Marriages (2) Not in child's BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court Order • Police Report on the whereabouts of the mother

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5.	<p>I am not a Singapore citizen (Permanent Resident or Foreigner). Will my child be eligible for KiFAS?</p>	<p>Your child must be a Singapore Citizen and meets the eligibility criteria for KiFAS (i.e. in a AOP or MOE run kindergarten and meet the income criteria), in order to receive KiFAS.</p>
6.	<p>My child is adopted. Will he/she be eligible for KiFAS?</p>	<p>Yes. Adopted child who is a Singapore Citizen and meets the eligibility criteria (i.e. in a AOP or MOE run kindergarten and meet the income criteria) can qualify for KiFAS. You will need to provide official documents for verification of eligibility.</p>
7.	<p>My child is withdrawn from kindergarten in the middle of the month. Is he/she eligible to receive KiFAS?</p>	<p>To be eligible for KiFAS, your child must have at least one day of attendance in the kindergarten, in the month of withdrawal.</p>
8.	<p>If I am unable to work due to medical reasons or am with extenuating circumstances (such as taking care of sickly family members, or with a child with special needs), can I qualify for KiFAS?</p>	<p>Working status is <u>not</u> a criterion for KiFAS.</p> <p>To be eligible for KiFAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is a Singapore citizen and enrolled in an Anchor Operator (AOP) or Ministry of Education (MOE)-run kindergarten; <u>and</u> • *Family's gross monthly household income (HHI) is \$6,000 and below, or per capita income (PCI) is \$1,875. <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), <i>where:</i></p>

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9.	Are there any other schemes available to help defray preschool expenses?	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.
10.	Can I receive further financial assistance in addition to KiFAS?	Low-income families with difficult family circumstances, and who face difficulties paying kindergarten fees can also apply for a yearly Start-up Grant, to pay for the initial costs of enrolling their child into a kindergarten.
11.	Will I receive notifications on my application status?	Parents will receive system notifications via email and SMS on their application status and actions required (where applicable). Kindergartens will also receive a copy of the notifications.