

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:

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

[^] 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

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

How much can I receive?

▶ 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.

	Working applicant		Non-working applicant	
	Basic Subsidy	Additional Subsidy	Basic Subsidy	Additional Subsidy
Infant Care (aged 2 – 18 months)	\$600	Up to \$540	\$150	NA
Child Care (aged 18 months to 6 years)	\$300	Up to \$440	\$150	NA

▶ 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.

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

- + Medically unfit for work due to hospitalisation, long-term illness and/or permanent disability
- + Taking care of sick or special needs family member
- + Caring full-time for a younger child aged 24 months and below
- + Incarcerated

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



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.

