

Enrolling and Supporting Your Child in Preschool



Content page

| | |
|---|----|
| About ECDA | 03 |
| Section 1 Before Choosing A Preschool | 04 |
| Section 2 Choosing A Preschool | 05 |
| Section 3 Enrolling In A Preschool | 11 |
| Section 4 Supporting Your Preschooler Child | 12 |
| Section 5 Frequently Asked Questions | 13 |



Enhancing Preschool Search Journey for Parents

To support parents, the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) has enhanced the preschool search journey so that it is now easier for parents to locate preschools with vacancies near their homes, workplaces and caregivers' homes, using the new Preschool Search feature on LifeSG.

With this search tool, parents can search for preschools for their child and have more certainty as they liaise directly with preschools for enrolment matters. There is no need for the additional step of registering interest via a portal and waiting for preschools to respond.

About ECDA

ECDA is the regulatory and developmental agency for the early childhood sector in Singapore and oversees key aspects of children's development below the age of seven across both kindergartens and childcare centres.

We believe that all children in Singapore, regardless of background, deserve a positive early childhood experience through quality care and education, which nurtures holistic development and builds a strong foundation by instilling a love for learning.



Section 1

Before Choosing A Preschool

The early years play a pivotal role in shaping a child's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Children, especially those under three years old, learn best when they have warm, engaged, and responsive relationships with their main caregivers.

Do consider what is suitable for the care and development of your child, taking into account your child's needs, as well as your preferences and circumstances.

For those who wish to enrol their child in a preschool to complement the important role the home environment plays in the child's holistic development, this resource kit provides information on preschool services, search and enrolment.



Section 2

Choosing A Preschool

Types of Preschool Services

Class of Licence

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>Infant Care Centre (Class A licence)</p> |  <p>Child Care Centre (Class B licence)</p> |  <p>Kindergarten (Class C licence)</p> |
|---|--|--|

Service

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caters to children aged 2 months to 18 months old • Full-day programme from 7 am to 7 pm; may also provide half day and/or flexible options (at least 12 hours a week, and 3 hours per session) • Infant care services are available 5 or 5½ days a week, excluding Sundays and gazetted public holidays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caters to children aged 18 months to below 7 years • Full-day programme from 7 am to 7 pm; may also provide half day and/or flexible options (at least 12 hours a week, and 3 hours per session) • Child care services are available 5 or 5½ days a week excluding Sundays and gazetted public holidays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caters to children aged 18 months to below 7 years • Half-day programme • Kindergarten services are available 5 days a week, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, gazetted public holidays and school holidays (according to the Ministry of Education's academic calendar). An exception are kindergartens that follow an international curriculum and academic year. |
|---|--|---|

Source: ECDA | [Choosing a Preschool for Your Child](#)

Which Preschool is the Best for My Child?

The diversity in the preschool landscape caters to the varied needs of children. Choose a preschool that will benefit your child most, based on your understanding of his/her needs.



1

Curriculum

Many preschools have different educational philosophies and beliefs, and they adopt a wide array of teaching, learning and child development approaches. For a start, you can consider how the preschool's education philosophies and curriculum approaches are aligned to your child's needs.



2

Accreditation

Note each centre's license tenure*, and whether they have certain quality accreditations such as the Singapore Preschool Accreditation Framework (SPARK). License tenures range from 6 to 24 months. Longer tenures indicate that the centres have commendably met the key licensing requirements. *License tenure is only applicable to childcare centres.



3

Your Child's Educators

Children develop and learn better when they have caring and trained educators. Find out more about the key staff members who will be caring for your child. Consider if the staff have the requisite training and experience to provide a nurturing experience for your child. Observe the educators' interactions with the children.



4

Your Child's Safety

A safe environment for children is important. ECDA requires preschools to have safe practices and furnishings in place. Take time to find out about the preschool's emergency arrangements, and how the preschool typically responds to emergencies.



5

Your Child's Meals

ECDA requires preschools to serve food to children that is nutritious, balanced and varied. If your child has certain dietary restrictions or food allergies, it is important to discuss these with the preschool to ensure that your child's needs are taken care of.



6

Financial Consideration

Knowing the programme fee structure is important. In addition, it is useful to find out if any other costs such as transport cost (school bus), material cost or other miscellaneous costs for learning journeys, additional programmes, year-end concert are involved. Such financial considerations will help you determine if your preferred preschool falls within your budget.

You may also wish to consider if the preschools are under the Anchor or Partner Operator Schemes.

Anchor Operator Scheme:

Operators keep to a monthly fee cap of. \$680*, \$1,235 and \$150 (excluding GST) for full day childcare, full day infant care and kindergarten respectively, and ensure any fee increases are kept affordable for parents.

** From 2025, the fee cap for full-day childcare at an Anchor Operator centre is \$640.*

Partner Operator Scheme:

Operators keep to a monthly fee cap of \$720** and \$1,290 (excluding GST) for full day childcare and infant care programme respectively for Singapore Citizen (SC) children, and ensure any fee increases are kept affordable for parents.

*** From 2025, the fee cap for full-day childcare at a Partner Operator centre is \$680.*



7

Subsidy Schemes

Infant and Childcare Subsidies for Singapore Citizen Children

→ **Basic Subsidy:**

All are eligible, with more subsidies for working applicants

→ **Additional Subsidy:**

For those where working applicants whose gross monthly household income is \$12,000 and below, or per capita income is \$3,000 and below

Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) for Singapore Citizen Children who are enrolled in an Anchor Operator (AOP) or Ministry of Education (MOE) kindergarten.

→ For those with gross monthly household income of \$12,000 and below, or per capita income of \$3,000 and below **for larger families**

More information can be found at [ECDA | Subsidies & Financial Assistance](#).



8

Location

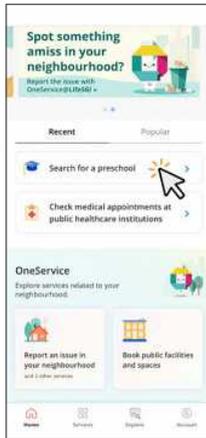
Proximity to home, workplace, or caregivers' home provides convenience for carers. Consider the actual commuting time rather than the distance of the preschool.

Compare Available Preschools on LifeSG

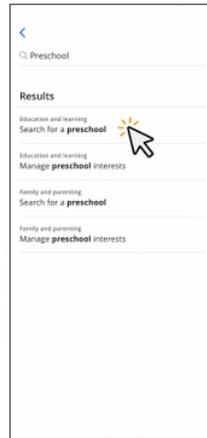
LifeSG is a comprehensive mobile application designed to provide Singapore residents with convenient access to over 100 government services and resources. Locate available preschools near your homes, workplaces or caregivers' homes using the LifeSG mobile app.

Follow the steps below to search for a preschool on LifeSG.

STEP 1



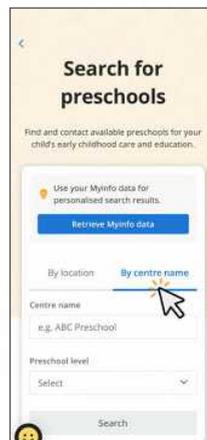
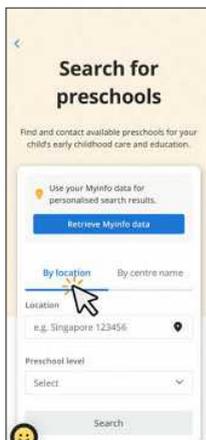
Or



On the LifeSG app, click on "Search for a preschool"

On search for a "preschool" in the searchbar and click on "Search for a preschool"

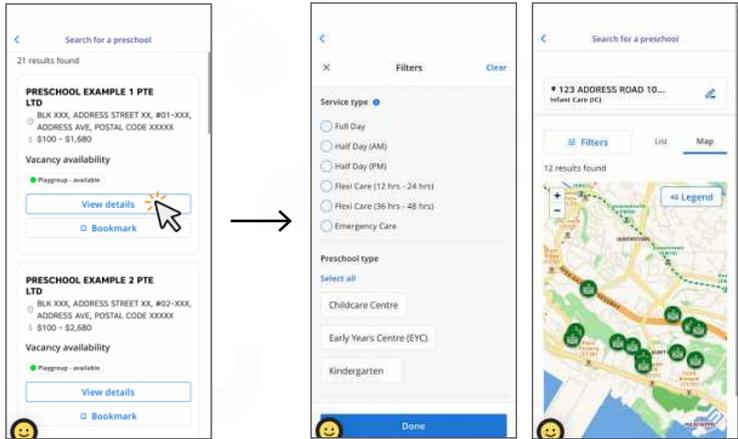
STEP 2



Find the preschool by the location or centre name and select the preschool level that you are searching for

Compare Available Preschools on LifeSG

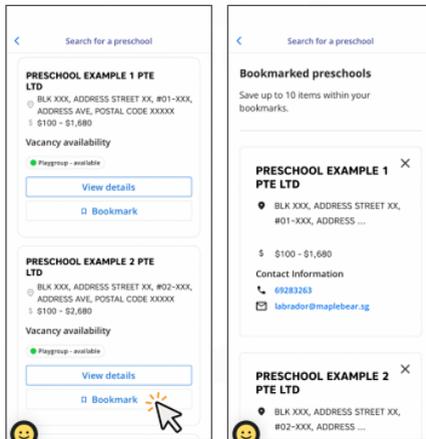
STEP 3



The results for preschools within a 2km radius will appear. Click on 'View details' for more information.

Filter the results or view the locations using the map view

STEP 4



Login via Singpass to bookmark and compare shortlisted preschools

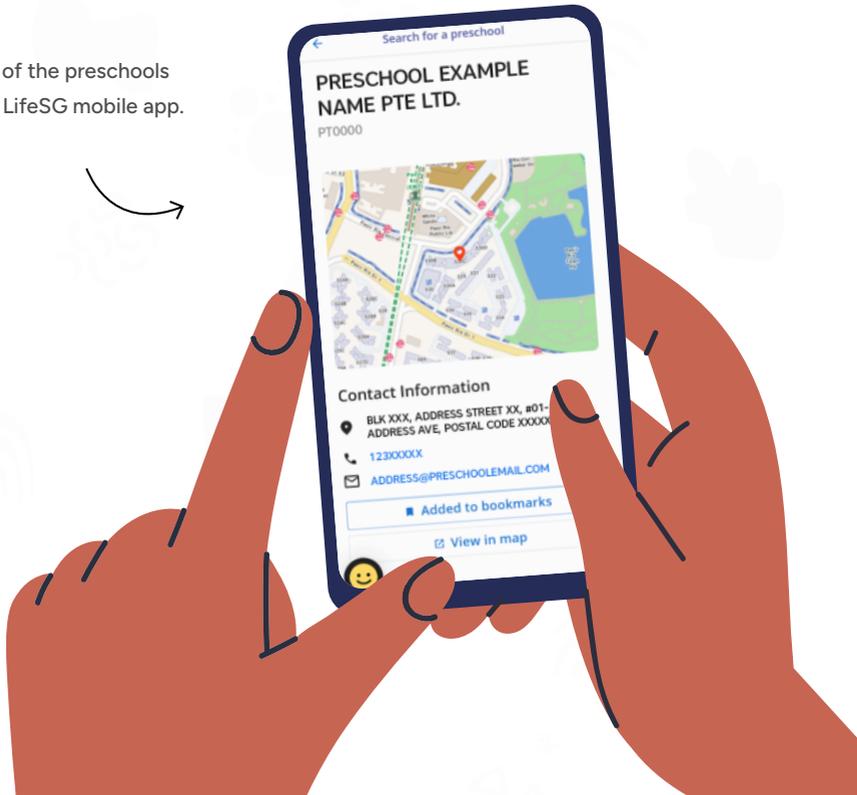
Section 3

Enrolling in a Preschool

Once you have identified suitable preschools with availability, contact the preschools directly for enrolment through e-mail or a phone call. The preschools will arrange with you the necessary details required for registration and your child's enrolment.

Administrative policies related to enrolment, withdrawal and fees are managed directly by preschools. You can usually find these details in the preschool's handbook for parents/guardians or on their enrolment forms under Terms and Conditions. Be sure to read the preschool's policies, guidelines and terms carefully before entering into any contractual agreement. This helps to prevent any future misunderstanding.

The contact details of the preschools are available on the LifeSG mobile app.



Section 4

Supporting Your Preschooler Child

Parent-Preschool Partnership

Children benefit best when parents and educators work together to nurture and educate preschoolers, with both knowledge and skills, and positive attitudes and values.

As parents, you play the key role in the development of your child. It is important to build a positive relationship with your child's educators. Working hand-in-hand with your child's preschool will help you better understand the needs and development of your child, so that you may give them the necessary family care, support, and reinforcement at home.

You are encouraged to discuss matters relating to the well-being of your child and work with the centre to build a successful partnership through regular and open dialogue. Beyond that, you may wish to volunteer your time and talents to plug both you and your child into a world of shared resources and learning.



Volunteering can be done in different ways such as:

- Assisting with classroom and/or class-related activities and programmes (e.g., storytelling, sharing sessions, craft work, and helping for fieldtrips);
- Lending a hand for preschool events and functions (e.g., festive celebrations, seminars, talks, and workshops); and
- Networking with other parents through parent support platforms and/or groups.



Section 5

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I search for preschools on LifeSG website?

The preschool search is accessible via both the LifeSG mobile app and website.

Scan the QR code or visit

<https://go.gov.sg/preschoolsearch>



Download the LifeSG App



2. Can I use the bookmark function if I don't have Singpass?

You will need to log in with Singpass to be able to use the bookmark function. You may register for a Singpass at [Singpass - Register for Singpass](#).

3. Previously, I was able to indicate my interest in preschools but why am I unable to do so now?

Parents can now contact the centres directly to indicate interest and obtain a more accurate estimated waiting time to enrol your child in the preschool. There is no need for the additional step of registering interest via the search portal and waiting for preschools to respond.

4. I have previously submitted my interest. What happens to my submission?

For those who registered their interests via the previous preschools search portal (PSP) before 1 April 2024, your interests will still be reviewed by preschools, but they will expire 6 months after the date of submission of your interest. The centres will contact you, should there be a vacancy for your child. Alternatively, you may also wish to use the new search tool and contact the centres directly to follow up on your registration.

5. What should I do if my preferred preschool has no vacancies?

You may wish to expand your search options (such as extending your search distance) on the LifeSG preschool search to locate other centres with vacancies. You may also consider centres near your workplaces or the child's grandparents' homes if you are unable to secure a place near your home.

If you choose to wait for a vacancy in your preferred centre, please check with the preschool. Every centre has its own enrolment procedures and is responsible for maintaining its own waitlist.

Need Help?

If you face any difficulty, please call ECDA at 6735 9213 or email contact@ecda.gov.sg.

For more information, visit: <https://www.life.gov.sg/>