

Government Subsidies for Infant Care and Child Care

Help defray preschool fees for Singaporean children

Who is eligible?

Any Singapore Citizen (SC) child enrolled in an ECDA-licensed infant/child care centre



What are the available subsidies?

1 Basic Subsidy

All applicants for Singapore Citizen children are eligible with more subsidies for those who are working



2 Additional Subsidy

Available to applicants for Singapore Citizen children
a) who are working and
b) whose gross monthly household income is \$12,000[^] and below or per capita income is \$3,000* and below

[^] Before CPF deduction and include bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, and allowances
* 5 or more family members living in the same household (applicant's spouse will be included by default regardless of residential address) 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 where 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 \$710	\$150	NA
Child Care (aged 18 months to 6 years)	\$300	Up to \$467	\$150	NA

Subsidies will be directly disbursed to the child's centre and you, the applicant, would only need to pay the net fee after the subsidy, financial assistance and Start-Up grant which can also be paid out of your child's Child Development Account

Note: Subsidies above are based on full day programmes

What is Special Approval?

Applicants in the following groups may apply for higher subsidy support under Special Approval:

- 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
- Non-parent caregivers who are caring for the child such as grandparents, legal guardian, foster parents and children's home**
- Children under HDB's Public Rental Scheme or ComCare Short-To-Medium Term Assistance (SMTA) or Long-Term Assistance (LTA) will automatically qualify for maximum preschool subsidies upon application for Special Approval**

Relevant supporting documents will be required, where applicable. 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 progresses from infant care to child care
- ▶ When child promotes from Nursery 2 (N2) to Kindergarten 1 (K1)

Subsidy will remain unchanged between fixed points of subsidy assessment

ECDA will notify you before the re-assessment of your income/employment status and update you of the outcome



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
- ▶ Remember to give your telephone numbers and email address
- ▶ ECDA will send you an SMS and email to acknowledge your application and its outcome

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 **LifeSG** 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

