

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON PRESCHOOL SUPPORT SCHEMES

A. GENERAL

1. Who will qualify for the Support Schemes?

Both commercial and non-profit operators which meet the respective eligibility criteria set out for the Support Schemes can qualify.

2. When can I apply for the Support Schemes? How do I apply?

Support Schemes are currently open for application. Please visit <https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Support-Schemes> to apply, at any time throughout the year.

3. Will there be a cap/quota on applications for each of the Support Schemes?

There is no quota for the number of successful applicants for each scheme. The number of successful operators depends on the merit of the proposals submitted for each of the schemes.

4. How can centres find out if they are ready for SPARK? What support is available for them to attain SPARK?

ECDA conducts regular workshops and training on SPARK to help centres learn more about the Quality Rating Scale (0-6) and use it to guide them on management practices and quality improvements. Centres may conduct self-assessment using the QRS (0-6) to benchmark the quality of their centres and programme.

More information on SPARK can be found on <http://www.ecda.gov.sg/SPARKinfo>.

5. How does ECDA determine which are “high demand areas”?

High demand areas are ones where the preschools experience high enrolment rates and where there is insufficient provision of preschool places locally. ECDA will only be able to advise whether a site is in a high demand area after operators have put in a formal application for ISG or PRS with details of the childcare site, floor area, anticipated licenced capacity, and tenancy agreement.

B. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT GRANT (WORKPLACE)

6. Why is the Infrastructure Support Grant (Workplace) not open to kindergartens?

As most parents work full-day, they tend to require full-day childcare or infant care services, rather than half-day kindergarten services.

C. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT GRANT (KINDERGARTEN CONVERSION)

7. For kindergartens that are converting to childcare centres, will care and education of children be affected by the conversion?

Before kindergarten conversion, operators must consult parents and inform them of the conversion one year in advance, to allow them adequate time to make alternative arrangements (e.g. if it is necessary to enrol children in another centre).

After conversion, centres may consider offering half-day or flexi-care childcare programmes, so that children who were originally enrolled in the kindergarten programme have the option to remain at the same centre.

D. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT GRANT (COMMUNITY/SPORTS FACILITIES SCHEME (CSFS) PREMISES)

8. How does the CSFS benefit developers? How does the Infrastructure Support Grant (CSFS) benefit childcare operators?

Under the CSFS, developers / owners of qualifying commercial properties may receive bonus gross floor area from URA for the equivalent amount of space set aside for childcare centres. With effect from March 2020, operators would qualify for Infrastructure Support Grant (CSFS premises) if they intend to set up new childcare centre in CSFS premises.

E. PORTABLE RENTAL SUBSIDY

9. Would a preschool operator be able to benefit from the Portable Rental Subsidy if he owns the childcare or kindergarten premises?

Centres will be eligible for Portable Rental Subsidy if they have a valid lease agreement for the premises and is paying rent. The subsidy would not be extended where no rental is payable (e.g. premises are owned by the operator).

F. TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES GRANT

10. Is there a limit to the number of Teaching & Learning Resources that a centre can apply for reimbursement through the Grant? What are examples of resources which are supported?

There is no limit to the number of items which operators may purchase and seek reimbursement for under the Teaching & Learning Resources Grant. However, the total amount of reimbursement is capped at \$5,000 per year. Centres should consider the developmental needs of children and purchase resources which can develop children holistically, in areas such as cognitive, aesthetic, moral, physical, social and emotional. Examples of eligible resources are listed at <https://www.ecda.gov.sg/operators/pages/teaching-and-learning-resources-grant.aspx> for reference.

Information updated as at 6 March 2020