

Learn about free early childhood education and care

Childhood Education and Childcare Tuition Support Law

There now is no fees for kindergarten, day care centers, and centers for early childhood education and after-care for children ages 3 to 5. The new system went into effect on October 1, 2019.



(1) Children attending kindergarten, day care centers and/or centers for early childhood education and care

【Eligible Institutions】

- Kindergartens, Day care centers, Centers for early childhood education and care, Municipal-level childcare services, Corporate childcare.

【Eligible children】

3 to 5years : Free-of-charge for all children of this age.

*For kindergartens that are not under the new system of support for children and child-raising, up to 25,700 JPY monthly.

*The corporate childcare institutions shall deduct a fixed amount from the fees depending on the age of the child.

*In principle, the eligible period will start from April 1 that comes after the child turns 31 and end once the child enters elementary school. When the kindergarten admissions open after the child turns 3.

*Transportation expenses, meal expenses and event fees shall continue to be paid by the parent/guardian.

However, the meal expenses shall be as follows :

- Households with annual income of less 3.6 million yen shall be exempted from fees for non-staple foods (side dishes and snacks)
- From the third child onwards of any household, fees for non-staple foods shall be exempted (side dishes and snacks)

*Kindergartens that are not under the new system of support for children and child-raising may need to complete procedures for licensing and reimbursement. Please contact your local municipal office

0 to 2years : Free for the households with exemptions from municipal residence tax.

(Counting the oldest child attending day care centers as Child 1, Child 2 shall receive the services at half the price and Child 3 shall receive it for free. However, for households with an annual income of less than 3.6 million yen, the age of the first child is irrelevant)

*The corporate childcare institutions shall deduct a fixed amount from the fees depending on the age of the child.

(2) Children using extended childcare services at Japanese local Kindergartens

【Eligible Institutions】

- Extended childcare services at Kindergarten

【Eligible children】

3 to 5years : Max 11, 300 JPY will be exempted per month.

○Depending on the number of days of use, maximum 11,300 JPY will be exempted, in addition to allowing the use of kindergarten.

*In order to be eligible for this exemption, "Need for childcare" must be recognized. In this case, proof of employment or other requirements must be met.

(3) Children using Privately-Owned Childcare Institutions and Privately-Owned Kindergartens

【Eligible Institutions】

- Childcare services at privately-owned nurseries and kindergartens.

Childcare services at privately-owned nurseries and kindergartens (including those accredited by local governments, general childcare institutions, baby-sitters, unlicensed childcare facilities within a workplace), temporary childcare services, childcare services for sick children, family support center services.

【Eligible children】

• 3 to 5years : Up to 37,000 yen

• 0 to 2years : Households with exemptions from municipal residence tax are eligible. Up to 42,000 yen

*In order to be eligible for this exemption, you must apply at your local municipal office and your "Need for childcare" must be approved. In this case, proof of employment or other requirements must be met.

*Only the children who are not enrolled in a local daycare center or center for early childhood education and care are eligible.

*Only privately-owned childcare institutions and kindergartens that meet the national accreditation standards of the prefectural government.

(4) Children availing of the development support for handicapped preschool children

【Eligible Institutions】

- Child development services: Child development services, medical services for child development, home-visit child development services, day-care/other visit services, welfare facilities offering disabled children homes, medical facilities offering disabled children homes.

【Eligible children】

Children who have turned 3 by April 1, and are yet to start their primary schooling

*Free for children attending multiple institutions such as kindergarten, day care centers or centers for early childhood education and care.

*Costs not included in the tuition fee shall be paid by the parent/guardian (medical expenses, meal expenses, etc.)

For more detailed information, please contact your City Ward Office's Family Childcare Division.