

## Notice on early childhood education and care fees

### DETERMINATION OF CUSTOMER FEES

The monthly fee collected for early childhood education and care is based on the Act on Early Childhood Education and Care Customer Fees.

The fee is determined by the size of the family, the need for the service and the family's gross income.

A family is considered as persons living in a common household in a married or common-law relationship and their minor children, who are registered in the same household.

The right to a place in early childhood education starts at the end of the parental allowance period and ends at the start of compulsory education.

### **Family's gross income**

When determining the early childhood education and care allowance, all taxable earned income and capital income, tax-exempt income as well as imputed forest income of the family are taken into account.

The holiday bonus (5%) is added to gross income. Maintenance and support payments are counted as income.

If the monthly income is variable, the average is calculated over a longer period.

If the family agrees to the highest day care fee, no income information needs to be submitted.

Not taken account as income are: child benefit, benefits under the Disability Benefits Act (570/2007), child supplement under the National Pensions Act (568/2007), housing allowance, medical and research expenses under accident insurance, military dependents allowance, front-line allowance, study allowance, adult education allowance, housing supplement to study allowance, activity allowance paid as income support and travel allowance, maintenance allowance under the Act on Rehabilitation Benefits and Rehabilitation Allowance Benefits of the Social Insurance Institution (566/2005), expense allowance under the Act on Public Employment and Corporate Services (916/2012), study grants and other similar allowances, reimbursement of family care costs and child home care allowance.

### **Sibling discount**

If more than one child of the family is in early childhood education and care organised by the municipality, the fee for the youngest child in full-time early childhood education and care may be determined in accordance with Article 5. A fee that is at most 40 per cent of the fee of the youngest child may be imposed for the next child in order of age in full-time early childhood education and care.

The fee for each subsequent child shall not exceed 20 per cent of the fee for the youngest child. When determining the fee for children other than the youngest child of the family, the calculation shall be based on the imputed full-time early childhood education and care fee for the youngest child.

### **Declaration of income**

New customers must submit proof of the family's income to determine the fee, or give their consent to the highest customer fee, within one month of starting early childhood education and care, via our online service, where they can also consent to having their income checked in the income register and the Social Insurance Institution (Kela).

If no income information is submitted within the time limit, the highest customer fee may be charged (Act on Client Fees in Early Childhood Education and Care, § 5).

Any change in income must be reported without delay to the Early Childhood Education and Care customer fees department, even if a consent to having the income checked in the income register and the Social Insurance Institution (Kela) had previously been given.

If a decision concerning the determination of a fee has been based on incorrect information provided by the customer or his/her representative, the fee may be increased up to one year in arrears

### **Changes in need of service**

Any change in a need for service is agreed with the day care centre's director.

### **Absences**

If a child is absent from early childhood education care for at least 11 days in a calendar month due to illness, half of the monthly fee is charged. If a child is absent for the entire calendar month due to illness, no fee is due. If a child is absent for any other reason for an entire calendar month, half of the monthly fee will be collected. Otherwise a full monthly fee will be collected at all times. If a family has contractual days, the absences are calculated based on the number of booked days for day care.

### **Exemption from payment under the special care programme**

The right to an exemption of a customer fee may arise if the income-based fee causes a customer to need income support, or if the child entitled to it under a special care programme. Decisions are subject to the criteria for preventive income support and the related application guidelines.

### **Invoicing**

Early childhood education is invoiced in arrears. The due date is the end of the month following the month of invoicing. Overdue invoices are transferred to be dealt with by a debt collection agency.

### **Start and end of early childhood education and care**

If the child's care starts or ends in the middle of a calendar month, the fee will be charged according to the number of care days booked. The early childhood education and care fee starts on the day that the family agrees to be the starting date when they register for an early childhood education and care place.

There is no notice period for municipal early childhood education and care. The earliest date on which notice of termination can be given is the date on which the notice is received.

### **Further information**

general tel.number for client fees 040 180 8476 (Mon-Thu 9am-11am)

or by email

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