

Information about client fees in early childhood education and care 1 August 2020

Act on Client Fees in Early Childhood Education and Care (1503/2016)

DETERMINATION OF CLIENT FEES

The monthly fee charged for early childhood education is based on the Act on Client Fees in Early Childhood Education and Care.

The fee is determined on the basis of family size, need for service and gross income for the part exceeding the income limits as follows:

Income limits as of 1 August 2020:

| Family size | Income limit EUR/month | Fee rate of income exceeding the income limit | Income limit for the highest fee |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | 2136 | 10.70 | 4827.59 |
| 3 | 2756 | 10.70 | 5447.59 |
| 4 | 3129 | 10.70 | 5820.59 |
| 5 | 3502 | 10.70 | 6193.59 |
| 6 | 3874 | 10.70 | 6565.59 |

The maximum fee for the first child is EUR 288/month and for the second child EUR 144/month.

Married persons or persons living in a marriage-like relationship in the same household on a permanent basis as well as both spouses' underage children living in the same household with them are considered to be family. If the family size is more than six, the income limit on the basis of which the fee is determined is increased by EUR 144 for each additional underage child of the family.

The right to a place in early childhood education begins at the end of the parental allowance period and expires when compulsory education begins.

Sibling discount

If more than one child of the same family attends municipal early childhood education, a client fee determined on the basis of section 5 can be charged for the youngest child attending full-time early childhood education. A fee amounting to a maximum of 50 per cent of the fee for the youngest child can be charged for the next child in order of age attending full-time early childhood education. A fee amounting to a maximum of 20 per cent of the fee for the youngest child is charged for each additional child. The determination of the fee for the family's children other than the youngest is based on the imputed full-time early childhood education fee for the youngest child.

Need for service

The need for service has an effect on the fee for early childhood education as follows:

| need for service | percentage of the fee for full-time day care every day |
|---|---|
| full-time day care every day | 100% |
| full-time care 15 days/month | 75% |
| full-time care 10 days/month | 50% |
| care for a maximum of 20 hours a week | 50% |
| part-time care, maximum of 5 hours/day | 60% |
| part-time care, maximum of 5 hours/day, 15 days/month | 45% |
| part-time care, maximum of 5 hours/day, 10 days/month | 30% |

The fee is based on gross income

In determining the early childhood education fee, all taxable salary and capital income, tax-free income and imputed forest income are taken into consideration as the family's income.

Holiday bonus (5%) is added to the gross salary. Child maintenance and child maintenance allowance have an effect on the early childhood education fee. If the monthly income varies, the average for a longer period is considered.

Reporting income

The family has to report their income within one month of starting early childhood education. The report is submitted using forms available on the early childhood education customer fee website. If income is not reported, the maximum fee may be charged from the client.

Salary income will be checked from the income register or submitted vouchers. Information about benefits paid by Kela is received directly from Kela. The family has to report any other income proactively. Even if the family had no income, a notification for early childhood education client fees has to be submitted nevertheless.

Entrepreneurs additionally need to complete the *Yrittäjän tuloseelvitys* (Account of entrepreneur's income) form with appendices.

Acceptance of maximum fee

The family may accept the maximum client fee in early childhood education online services or using the form available on the early childhood education client fee website.

Changes in income, family size or service

Any changes need to be reported to early childhood education client fees without delay. The report is submitted using forms available on the early childhood education customer fee website.

Client fee reduction

You can apply for a reduction in or exemption from early childhood education client fees. The client fee is first determined on the basis of the family's income and any other factors influencing the fee, and only after that may the guardian apply for a reduction in or exemption from the client fee.

The grounds for preventive income support and associated application guidelines are applied to the decisions. Reductions in the client fee are not generally granted retroactively, but only from the beginning of the month during which the application was received by the client fee department of Education and Learning Services. The right to a reduction in the client fee can arise if the client fee charged on the basis of income would result in the customer needing income support or on account of the child's special care programme.

Overdue early childhood education client fee

Early childhood education is invoiced in arrears. The due date is at the end of the month following the month of invoicing. For example, the client fee for May falls due at the end of June. Interest on arrears is charged in accordance with the Interest Act. Overdue invoices are forwarded to a debt collection agency to manage.

Start and end of early childhood education

If care begins or ends in the middle of a calendar month, the fee is charged based on the reserved days of care. If the child is absent due to, for example, illness such a day is also considered to be a day in care. The early childhood education begins as of the date agreed by the family as the care start date when reporting that they accept the place in early childhood education.

There is no period of notice in early childhood education. The earliest possible date of termination is the day on which the notice of termination was received by the place of care. The service is terminated via the City of Tampere's early childhood education online services or using the form available on the city website.

Absence

If a child is absent from early childhood education due to illness for a minimum of 11 days during a calendar month, one-half of the monthly fee will be charged. If the child is absent due to illness for the entire calendar month, no fee will be charged. If the child is absent due to other reasons for the entire calendar month, one-half of the monthly fee will be charged. The full monthly fee will always be charged otherwise. If the family has specific agreed days, absence is calculated on the basis of reserved days of care.

Additional information about early childhood education client fees:

<https://www.tampere.fi/varhaiskasvatus-ja-koulutus/varhaiskasvatus/asiakasmaksut.html>

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