

Parent Child Care Affordability Information Sheet for Families - November 2021



Under the affordability priority within the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*, the province is working towards \$10 a day child care by March 31, 2026. This is the first step to reducing child care fees for Saskatchewan families.

Parent fee reduction approach

If your child is under the age of six and in licensed care you can expect to see a reduction in the amount you pay in child care fees. The amount will depend on your current fees and the age of your child. You can expect the fees you pay to be reduced by up to the following amounts:

	Infant spaces (< 18 months)	Toddler spaces (18 – 29 months)	Preschool spaces (30 months – 6 years)
	Maximum grant	Maximum grant	Maximum grant
Centres	\$395	\$333	\$306
Homes	\$393	\$367	\$333

As the target under the agreement is to reach \$10 per day child care, the fees will not be reduced lower than \$200 per month for a full-time space. For example, if you currently pay \$500 for a full-time infant space in a child care centre, your fee reduction would be \$300, not the maximum of \$395, resulting in the amount that you paid to your child care provider would be \$200 per month.

Once the grant amounts are set up by your child care provider, you can expect your upfront parent fees to be reduced. The target to have new fees in place is February 2022. In addition, you will also receive a refund on a portion of the fees you paid since July 1, 2021.

Who will be eligible for a parent fee reduction?

All families with children under the age of six who are in provincially licensed child care are eligible to receive the parent fee reduction grant. Funding will be supplied directly to licensed facilities and be used to reduce parent fees.

How do I know if my child care is provincially licensed?

Provincially licensed means that the child care provider is regulated and monitored by the Early Years Branch of the Ministry of Education.

Licensed centres and family child care homes meet and maintain specific standards stated in *The Child Care Act, 2014* and *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*.

Will everyone get the maximum fee reduction?

Nearly everyone will get a fee reduction. As the target under the agreement is to reach \$10 per day child care, the fees will not be reduced lower than \$200 per month for a full-time space. For example, this means if you currently pay \$500 for a full-time infant space in a child care centre, your fee reduction would be \$300, not the maximum of \$395, resulting in a final parent fee collected of \$200 per month.

How much of a retroactive payment will I receive?

Depending on age of your child and the fees you have paid, you can expect a refund on the eligible grant amount dating back to July 1, 2021.

For example, if you have a toddler that has been in licensed child care since July 1, 2021, and you paid \$700 a month, you can expect six months of the maximum toddler amount as the refund.

Eligible grant amount of \$333 x 6 months (July – December) = \$1,998

My child only attends part-time, will I still receive the maximum refund?

The amount will be pro-rated for part-time and non-full-time fees. Both the amount of the refund and the minimum charge will be prorated according to the proportion of full-time fees that you pay.

How much will my family receive?

The actual amounts for the retroactive payment back to July 1, 2021, will vary as each child care facility has a different fee schedule and the eligible amount is based on children attending the facility. The maximum amount will be based on what your provider currently charges and the age of your child.

When can I expect to pay reduced fees?

Your child care provider will receive funding to distribute back to you. If you have had children in child care since July 1, 2021, you can expect a lump sum payment for the grant amount for that period. This means that a portion of your child care expenses that have already been paid will be reimbursed to you. Going forward, beginning no later than February 1, 2022, child care fees will be reduced by the eligible grant amount.

What action do I need to take to get the parent fee reduction grant?

No action is required by families. Child care facilities will follow up with you directly once the amount of funding has been distributed to their facility.

How was the grant determined?

The grant amounts were determined based on the **provincial average** fees paid for each category at centres and homes. This means each family will experience the same fee reduction regardless of the fee they currently pay. Almost everyone will see the same dollar reduction for the same situation (e.g, a toddler in a home).

How will I know how much of a parent fee I will pay going forward?

The new fee structure will be communicated to families by their child care facility.

What information will be provided to the Government of Saskatchewan?

As a condition of funding, the ministry is required to gather information including child’s name, current fee and parent information in order to know who will receive what amount of funding. This information will be collected and stored in accordance to *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)*.

Will parent fee tax receipts need to be reissued for the reimbursement?

Tax receipts will be reissued by child care facilities for July to December where there was a difference in parent fee paid. The amount you will be able to claim as a child care tax credit will be the net amount you have paid, including the refund.

Can the retroactive pay be used as a credit for parents for upcoming months?

This will be at the discretion of the facility.

How does this affect parents who receive a subsidy for child care fees?

Eligibility has not yet been determined for families who have children under age six in licensed child care facilities that are receiving a subsidy through the Child Care Subsidy, the Provincial Training Allowance, or Student Loans.

The Ministry of Education is assessing how the grant will impact programs that subsidize child care, and will share information when it becomes available.

How do parents who already receive a subsidy for childcare find out if they are eligible?

Families will receive information about changes to their fees directly through their child care provider.

For more information, visit:

- Website: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/federal-funding-for-early-learning-and-child-care>
- Email: canadawideelccagreementinquiries@gov.sk.ca
- Phone: 1-855-824-9419