



DETERMINATION OF CLIENT FEES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Client fees for early childhood education as of 01/08/2022 will be based on the Act on Client Fees in Early Childhood Education and Care. The client fees will be calculated as a percentage share of the family's gross income. The highest fee will be for the family's youngest child at EUR 295 /month, for the second child 40% (at maximum EUR 118 /month) and, for the family's other children, 20% (at maximum EUR 59 /month) of the youngest child's full-time early childhood education fee.

FAMILY SIZE

In defining family size, the persons living in the common household or in marital-like circumstances are taken into account, as well as the juvenile children residing with them in the same household.

INCOME

As income, the following is taken into consideration: the taxable earnings and capital income of a child, parent or other guardian living in the same household and his/her spouse or person living in marital-like circumstances, in addition to tax-free income. Flexible and partial care allowance is taken into account as income. Holiday pay (5%) is added to salary income. Alimony or maintenance allowance related to the child is taken into consideration in early childhood education.

Income does not take the following into account: child allowance, benefit under the Disability Benefits Act (570/2007), child allowance under the National Pensions Act (568/2007), student allowance under the Student Aid Act (65/1994), housing allowance, accident insurance medical and research expenses, military allowance, battlefield aid, adult education support, operating and travel allowance as income support, maintenance allowance under the Act on Rehabilitation Benefits and Rehabilitation Allowances of the Social Insurance Institution (Kela, 566/2005), allowance under the Public Employment and Business Services Act (916/2012), study allowance expenses, or child home care support.

Deduction of income takes into account maintenance payments made as well as other similar costs arising from actual family relationships, as well as cash benefit withheld for a fixed period or for the life of the property (life annuity). Documents showing alimony paid should be submitted.

**DETERMINATION OR INSPECTION OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PAYMENT**

In starting early childhood education

In starting early childhood education, client payment is currently determined on the basis of the documents presented. If documentation is lacking or the client grants permission, the payment determined shall be the highest fee compliant with the care period. A fee determined on the basis of missing earnings information will not be corrected retroactively.

Early childhood education payment changes

The family has the obligation to present notification for the purpose of reviewing the customer fee

- if the family's income changes significantly or if the family size changes
- the early childhood education client fee shall be inspected **starting from the month during which the new information is submitted**
- if the decision concerning determination of payment has been based on incorrect information provided by the client, the payment may be adjusted retroactively for a period of no more than one year
- the client fee shall be inspected also if the valid regulations or decisions change.

Information regarding changes in family income or size, address and name changes, and free-form applications by the parent/guardian for payment reductions should be delivered to the Early Childhood Education Office.

The Early Childhood Education unit of the City of Uusikaupunki has the possibility to inspect the client's ongoing information and payment details from the database of the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (KELA) without requirement for client approval. (Act on the Status and Rights of Social Welfare Clients, section 21).

MONTHLY FEE

The client fee is invoiced as a monthly payment for a maximum of eleven (11) calendar months in the operating year (01/08– 31/07.). July is a payment-free month on condition that the child's early childhood education has begun no later than in August of the previous year.

The client fee is calculated from the family's gross income calculated as a whole.

The payment percentages, minimum and maximum gross income limits are as follows:

Family size	Minimum gross income EUR/month	Payment percentage	Maximum payment income limit, EUR/month
2	2913	10.70	5666
3	3758	10.70	6511
4	4267	10.70	7020
5	4777	10.70	7530
6	5284	10.70	8037

If the size of the family is larger than six members, the income threshold on which the contribution is based is increased by EUR 197 for each subsequent minor child in the family.

If income is smaller than the minimum gross income limit or if the payment is, per child, less than EUR 28, the fee shall not be charged.

You can calculate your family's full-time early childhood education client fee by reference to the following model: Calculate family size. Examine the minimum gross income limit / month. Subtract it from your average gross monthly income. Take the share of the remaining figure according to the payment percentage (10.70) = the client fee for early childhood education.

PAYMENTS CHARGED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Part-time early childhood education

Maximum 80 hours/month ⇒ 60% of the full-time (average at maximum 20 h / week) early childhood education fee is charged

Maximum 110 hours/month ⇒ 70% of the full-time (average at maximum 27.5 h / week) early childhood education fee is charged

Full-time early childhood education

Maximum 140 hours/month ⇒ 80% of the full-time (average at maximum 35 h / week) of the early childhood education fee

At minimum 140 hours/month ⇒ 100% of the early childhood education (average at minimum 35 h / week) fee is charged

As the total number of activity days in early childhood education varies from month to month, the time to be reserved and its use must be proportional to the number of activity days in each calendar month.

PRE-SCHOOLING-RELATED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FEES

Free-of-charge pre-schooling is given as school days to the amount of approximately four hours a day. During pre-school holidays (autumn, Christmas and winter holidays), the child can be in full-time early childhood education without changing the fees for the early childhood education period. The fees compliant with early childhood education for the summer period are charged.

EFFECT OF ABSENCE ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CLIENT FEE

As a rule, the monthly fee is charged also for days absent. **If the child is in early childhood education for even one day during a calendar month, the fee for the entire month will be charged.**

The following exceptions apply to the charging of the monthly fee:

- 1) if the child is, due to illness, absent from all activity days of early childhood education during the calendar month, payment shall not be charged at all,
- 2) if the child is, due to illness, absent from early childhood education for at least eleven (11) activity days during the calendar month, half of the amount of the monthly fee will be charged,
- 3) if the child is absent from early childhood education for some other reason than illness on all days during the calendar month, half of the amount of the monthly fee will be charged.
- 4) for the days during which a child under the age of 2 is absent from early childhood education during the paternity money period intended in the Health Insurance Act (1224/2004), Chapter 9, section 7, no fee shall be charged at all.

Absence should be reported immediately to the care centre during the first day of illness. If the child is absent from early childhood education without notice, the absence shall be interpreted as absence for some other reason.

COMPENSATION WITH REGARD TO MONTHLY FEE IN FAMILY DAYCARE

When the family personally arranges a child's alternative care during a childminder's annual holiday, sick leave, during levelling-related free time or a schoolday, the family receives a discount in their client fee for the days concerned as a day-specific reduction.

STARTING AND ENDING OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The fee is charged from the ratified starting date in the early childhood education decision onwards. Home care support paid with regard to the child ends as of the same day. To avoid recovery action, the parents should inform the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) of the start of early childhood education. If early childhood education placement is not accepted, the need for early childhood education may be transferred once by one month forward. After this, half of the monthly fee will be charged unless the placement is cancelled.

If the child's early childhood education begins or is interrupted during the calendar month, the monthly fee set for the family for payment will be charged in accordance with the total number of activity days concerned. If the child's early childhood education placement is cancelled, billing will end on the education-related ending date.

Early childhood education placement must be cancelled in writing.

CHARGING FEES

The client fee charged monthly is based on the early childhood education referred to in the client fee contract. The total number of early childhood education hours received by the child is monitored on a monthly basis. If the hours received during some calendar month exceed the number of hours in the contract, the fee will be raised to correspond to the early child education fee for the early childhood education hours received. If the total number of hours received in early childhood education is below that agreed in the contract for the month, a fee will be charged in accordance with the contract.

The child's early childhood education period is agreed by means of a client payment agreement valid for at least two (2) months. The client fee contract should be filled in and delivered to the daycare centre or early childhood education office before the beginning of care or as a result of change in the care requirement.

BILLING

The client fee is billed retroactively once a month. Corrections to invoices are chiefly made with the next invoice. Matters concerning invoicing: Financial Secretary Satu Saarinen, satu.saarinen@uusikaupunki.fi.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning early childhood education client fee decisions may be addressed to Early Childhood Education Services, Mörnenkatu 2, FI-23500 Uusikaupunki. We request you to make contact electronically when your matter does not require instant clarification. Income information, etc., connected with payment decisions: Office Secretary Tuula Damberg, tuula.damberg@uusikaupunki.fi. Early childhood education placements and service counselling: Service Counsellor Outi Lahti, outi.lahti@uusikaupunki.fi

