



CLIENT FEE BULLETIN

1 May 2026

FEES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AS OF 1 AUGUST 2026

Early childhood education organised by the municipality is subject to a monthly fee. The fee is determined according to the Act on Client Fees in Early Childhood Education and Care (1503/2016) and the Education Committee decisions. The amount of the client fee is based on family size, income and the agreed-on need for service hours. The need for early childhood education services is agreed for a period of at least three months.

Highest fee and sibling discount

The early childhood education fee for full-time care is up to 335 euros for the youngest and 134 euros (40%) for the second youngest child receiving early childhood education. For other children in full-time early childhood education, the fee is 20% of the youngest child's fee, but not more than 67 euros.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	PRE-PRIMARY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION *)	CHILDREN BORN IN 2021
Fee	Fee	Fee
more than 7 h 100%	more than 7 h 65%	more than 7 h 65%
Holiday fee for a six-year-old pre-primary school pupil, 7–8 h/day 90%**)	pre-primary education + early childhood education, 7–8 h/day in total 60%	more than 5 h and up to 7 h 40%
more than 5 h and up to 7 h 80%	more than 5 h and up to 7 h 40%	up to 5 h 20%
up to 5 h 60%	up to 5 h 20%	up to 4 h 0%

SHIFT CARE HOURS PER MONTH	Fee
161 and up	100%
101–160	80%
61–100	60%

*) Pre-primary education will not be provided during school holidays. At these times, the early childhood education fee will be charged based on the service need and it will be higher than normal.

***) Only applies to the early childhood education fee for six-year-old pre-primary school-aged pupils during school holidays.

Early childhood education (4 h/day) is free for children aged five, born in 2021 and living in Helsinki, from 1 August 2026 onwards until the start of their pre-primary education.

For temporary full-time early childhood education, a fee of 46.20 EUR per day is charged, while the fee for part-time early childhood education is 24.70 EUR per day. For the second child, the fees are 24.70 EUR per day and 15.30 EUR per day, respectively.

Family size

The family size takes into account those living in the same household in a marriage or marriage-like relationship, as well as their underaged children who live in the same household.

Payment percentage, minimum and maximum gross income limits

Family size	Minimum gross income limit, EUR per month	Fee %	Gross income limit for the highest fee, EUR per month
2	4,369	10.7	7,495
3	5,635	10.7	8,761
4	6,399	10.7	9,525
5	7,163	10.7	10,289
6	7,925	10.7	11,051

If a family has more than six members, the income limit used as grounds for determining the fee is raised by 295 euros for each additional underage child. If a family's income is below the minimum gross income level or if the fee per child is less than 32 euros, no fee is charged.

The early childhood education fee for a family is calculated according to the following formula:

- The minimum gross income limit per month for early childhood education is selected from the table based on the family size and subtracted from the (average) monthly gross income.
- From the remaining amount, 10.7% is taken as the full-time early childhood education fee per month for the youngest child.

Income

Income is considered to cover the taxable earnings and investment income, as well as the tax-exempt income, of a child, parent, or other guardian, as well as a person they are married to or live in marriage-like circumstances with. Income includes salaries, benefits, fees, grants, rental income, dividends, holiday pay, allowances and bonuses, and such. If the income varies monthly, we calculate the average monthly income over a year or at least three months.

Gross income does not include the following: child home care allowance (except for flexible and partial care allowance) and child benefit; benefit for the disabled under 16 years of age, benefit for the disabled aged 16 or older, care allowance for pensioners and dietary grant according to the Act on Disability Benefits (570/2007); child increase according to the National Pensions Act (568/2007); housing allowance; medical care and examination costs reimbursed based on accident insurance; conscript's allowance; front-veteran's supplement; financial aid for students according to the Act on Financial Aid for Students (65/1994); adult education allowance; social assistance; maintenance allowance of labour market subsidy or training support; grants and similar benefits received for studies; or compensation of costs of family care. Child maintenance allowance paid for children outside the family and other similar costs arising from actual family relationships, as well as annuities, are taken into account as deductions from income.

Income declaration and payment decision

The family must declare their income if the combined gross income of the family is less than the gross income for the highest early childhood education fee and whenever the income changes significantly. When income changes, a new income declaration shall be submitted without delay. The income declaration form can be found on the hel.fi website (Childhood and Education -> Early childhood education -> Early childhood education fee). The income declaration form and its appendices are submitted through the Edlevo e-service. To log in to Edlevo, visit hel.fi/vakapalvelu or download the Edlevo app. You can download the mobile app from Google Play or the App Store. Use your suomi.fi e-Identification to log in to the service. When you log in to the Edlevo service, your contact details will be updated and passed on to the early childhood education and pre-primary education staff. Edlevo is available in Finnish, Swedish and English.

If you cannot use the suomi.fi e-Identification, you can submit your income declaration with appendices by using secure email (find the link to Secure mail on the website) or by post to: Education Division, Customer

fees and invoicing, PO Box 58301, 00099 City of Helsinki. An income declaration can also be submitted to the location where the child receives their early childhood education.

Payment decisions can be viewed in the Edlevo e-service if you agreed to the use of the e-service when applying for early childhood education or pre-primary education or are logged in to Edlevo.

Review of the early childhood education fee

The early childhood education fees are reviewed every year. Families must provide up-to-date information about their income either annually or whenever their income changes. If a family's income information is more than one year old, they may be asked to provide a new, up-to-date income declaration. The request for income review will be provided in the Edlevo e-service, giving the family 14 days to submit a new income declaration. Please ensure that your email address in Edlevo is correct in order to receive the notification of an income review request.

Families are obliged to report any changes in their income in writing, accompanied by relevant appendices, if the change is fundamental or the size of the family changes. If a decision regarding the fee has been based on incorrect information provided by the client, the fee can be retroactively corrected for a period of six months or up to one year. The person responsible for determining and deciding the client fees has viewing rights to the KELA information system, where they can check the status and payment details of a customer's benefits without the customer's consent. The use of the system is based on Section 21 of the Act on the Status and Rights of Social Welfare Clients.

Monthly fee

A monthly fee is charged for up to eleven calendar months during an operating year (1 August–31 July). The monthly fee is not collected for July, provided that the child's municipal early childhood education has started no later than in September of the operating year. More detailed information on early childhood education fees during the holidays is available on the hel.fi website under early childhood education fees. The invoice is sent only to the address of the family where the child lives with the guardian(s).

If the child is **regularly** absent for 4 to 12 days a month, 4% for each contractual day of absence is reimbursed.

Regular days off can be set up for a minimum period of three months. Reimbursed days off can be based on agreed weekdays or work shifts, which must be reported to the care place at least one week in advance.

When a child's regularly reimbursed weekday absence falls on a bank holiday, it counts as a reimbursed day off. However, reimbursed days off cannot be concentrated on bank holidays or holiday periods. Other days off during a calendar month do not count towards the reimbursed absences.

If a child is absent from early childhood education due to illness, any regular days off during that period are not recorded as sick days. If a child is ill during a previously agreed-on holiday, these days are not recorded as sick days. If a regular day off falls on a bank holiday, the day off does not need to be taken on another day.

Effects of absences on the early childhood education fee

Early childhood education fees cover approximately 10% of the cost of early childhood education, and as a rule, no reimbursements are made for absences. The monthly fee is also charged for days off, with the following exceptions:

1. If a child is absent from early childhood education due to illness for all of the operating days within a calendar month, no fee will be charged.
2. If a child is absent from early childhood education due to illness for at least 11 operating days within a calendar month, 50% of the monthly fee will be charged.
3. If the child is absent from early childhood education due to a reason other than illness for a full calendar month, 50% of the monthly fee will be charged.

Start and end of early childhood education

The early childhood education fee is charged from the start date onwards, as specified in the early childhood education decision.

Families are requested to give notice of the termination of early childhood education at least one month before the need for it ends. The notice must be given in writing to the manager of the early childhood education place. The invoicing will end on the agreed termination date.

ENQUIRIES

Determining early childhood education fee

Education Division

Customer fees and invoicing, PO Box 58301,
00099 City of Helsinki

Contact details: Työpajankatu 8,
Tel. +358 (0)9 310 43270 at 9:00–11:00

varhaiskasvatus.maksut@hel.fi

Link to Secure mail is available on the hel.fi
website Early childhood education fees

Invoicing of early childhood education, changing a due date and collection

City of Helsinki

Financial Management Services

tel. +358 (0)9 310 25300

talpa.hel.fi