

## CHILDREN'S DAY CARE FEES IN TURKU AS OF 1 AUGUST 2016

Municipal day care is subject to a monthly fee. The fee is determined in accordance with the Act and Decree on Client Fees for Social Welfare and Health Care as well as decisions made by the Social Committee, the Primary Services Committee and the Education Committee. Municipal day care services comprise of municipal day care centres, family day care or three-family day care as well as day care services in a private day care centre, paid with a promissory note.

**Amount of the day care fee is based on the size of the family, their income and the hours of day care agreed upon in the day care agreement**

### ***Size of the family***

Size of the family takes into account married or cohabiting partners living in the same household as well as the underage children of both partners who live in the same household. A registered partnership is considered equal to marriage.

### ***Family income***

The taxable earned income and capital income as well as the tax-exempt income of the adults in the family and the child attending day care *are taken in to account as the family's income*. If the income varies from month to month, the calculations are made based on the average monthly income from the previous year. The income confirmed in the most recent taxation period can also be taken into account as taxable income, increased by the percentages decided annually by the Finnish Tax Administration.

*The following benefits are not taken into account as income:* child benefit, benefit granted under the Disability Benefits Act, child increase granted under the National Pensions Act, housing allowance, medical care and examination costs covered by accident insurance, conscript's allowance, front-veteran's supplement, study grant, adult education grant, housing supplement for students, rehabilitation allowance and reimbursement of travel costs paid as income support, compensation for expenses granted under the Social Insurance Institution's Rehabilitation Benefits Act, compensation for expenses granted under the Act on Public Employment and Business Service, scholarships granted to support studies or similar benefits, compensation for family care expenses and child home care allowance.

Child maintenance payments and similar expenses caused by actual family reasons as well as life annuity paid in cash are taken into account as *income reductions*.

*An income statement form with required attachments* is to be by e-service, [www.Turku.fi](http://www.Turku.fi) Daycare and education, Day Care Fees, Electronic service, or by mail to the following address: Education Department/Early Childhood Education, Day Care Fees, PO box 362, FI-20101 Turku. If the family does not submit an income statement, they will be charged the maximum fee. An income statement is not required if the family consents to being charged the maximum fee. The family can give their consent in writing either on the income statement form, or by using the e-services on a day care service provider's website (using the service requires you to sign in using your bank access codes). The consent is valid as long as the family itself gives another income statement.

*Separated partners who have joint custody* can each be charged a separate day care fee, if the child continually and regularly spends a part of the calendar month living with the guardian who lives separately from the child. The fee is determined based on the current size of the guardian's family, their current income, the day care hours agreed upon and the amount of time the child spends under the guardian's care in a month. A prerequisite for separate day care fees is that both guardians submit an income statement along with the

required attachments. Each guardian receives a separate fee notification that states only the fee determined for them and the reasons behind the decision.

### Verifying the fee

The family is required to submit a new income statement once a year so that the fee can be verified or adjusted. Reminders concerning out-of-date income information are sent as text messages to the phone of the family's first guardian, and as e-mail messages to the e-mail addresses of both of the family's adults. Because of this, the aforementioned contact information should be kept up-to-date to ensure the successful delivery of the messages. You can update your contact information through the Early Childhood Education E-services at [www.turku.fi/en](http://www.turku.fi/en), Daycare and Education; Early Childhood Education E-services.

If the family's income has significantly changed or the size of the family has changed since the last verification, the family must inform the head of their day care service provider of the changes to Customer Service in early education so that the fee can be adjusted. The fee will be verified from the beginning of the month during which the new information is submitted.

However, day care fees can be corrected if the grounds for the fee prove to be incorrect.

### Day care hours

#### Fees for full-time day care

The maximum fee for the youngest child in full-time day care is 290 euros per month. The monthly fee for the next child in order of age is the same as for the youngest child, but the fee will not exceed 261 euros. The fee for every following child is 20% of the fee for the youngest child. Fees under 27 euros are not charged.

An index adjustment is made to day care fees once every two years.

The fee is determined as follows: monthly income that exceeds the income limit is multiplied by a percentage in accordance with the table below. If the family consists of more than six people, the income limit is raised by 133 euros per each following underage child.

Size of the family persons	Income limit €/month	Maximum fee %
2	1403	11.5
3	1730	9.4
4	2053	7.9
5	2191	7.9
6	2328	7.9

*Example:* A family consists of two adults and three children. The children are in full-time municipal day care. The family's income is €4,000 per month.

The income is reduced according to the table: €4.000 - €2.191 = €1.809.

The fee for the youngest and the second youngest child is:  $7.9\% \times €1.809 = €142.91$  per month.

The fee for the oldest child is 20% of the fee for the youngest child:  $20\% \times €142.91 = €28.58$  per month.

In total, the family's day care fees are:  $€142.91 + €142.91 + €28.58 = €314.40$  per month.

#### Part-time day care fee

The fee for part-time day care that lasts a maximum of five hours per day is 65% of the monthly fee for full-time day care.

#### Fee for day care that supplements pre-school education

Free-of-charge pre-school education is available for four hours a day during the school year. If the child is both in day care and pre-school education, the monthly fee for pre-school education is calculated from the monthly fee for full-time day care as follows:

- 65% if the time spent in day care is a maximum of five hours per day and
- 85% if the time spent in day care is more than five hours per day.

### **Continual and regular absences from day care that are agreed upon in the day care agreement**

If the parents and the head of the day care place agree in the day care agreement that the child will be *continually and regularly* absent from day care for a part of every calendar month, the monthly fee will be reduced. The agreement must be made before determining the fee, for a period of at least three months. If the need for the service changes within those three months due to accepting a job or a study place, the day care agreement must be updated, starting from the date of the change. The day care agreement will not be renewed for the duration of the child's holiday. The number of realised day care days is observed monthly. If the child does not have a sufficient number of absences, as agreed upon in the agreement, the full monthly fee will be charged for the month in question.

When a child who spends 11 or 16 days in day care per calendar month first starts attending or stops attending day care, the child can attend day care on either a half or three quarters of the operating days left that month, depending on what was agreed upon in the day care agreement.

The day care fee is calculated from the monthly fee corresponding to the family's income as follows:

- 65% if it has been arranged that the child will spend a maximum of 11 days in a calendar month in day care and
- 85% if it has been arranged that the child will spend a maximum of 16 days in a calendar month in day care.

If it has been arranged that the child will spend 17 or more days per month in day care, the full monthly fee is charged.

### **Fee for shift day care**

The fee for round-the-clock day care is calculated from the monthly fee for full-time day care as follows:

- 65% if it has been arranged that the child will spend a maximum of 110 hours in calendar month in day care and
- 85% if it has been arranged that the child will spend a maximum of 160 hours in a calendar month in day care.

If it has been arranged that the child will spend more than 160 hours per month in day care, the full monthly fee is charged.

The hours of day care that affect the fee must be agreed upon for a period of at least three months. The day care agreement will not be renewed for the duration of the child's holiday. The number of realised day care hours is observed monthly. If the realised day care hours exceed the hours agreed upon in the agreement, the full monthly fee is charged for the month in question.

### **Day care fees are charged in accordance with the fee notification and attendance records**

#### ***Fee notification***

The family receives a fee notification which states the fee for each child in day care and the first date of payment. The official decision is based on *the size of the family, the family's income, the number of days spent in day care and the hours of day care agreed upon in the day care agreement*. If the fee notification contains incorrect information, the family must immediately notify the Early childhood education Servicedesk in order to correct the error

before invoicing.

In the event of changes in the size of the family, their income or the hours of day care, the family will receive a new fee notification. The fee notification will be sent directly from the customer information system, which is why the family may receive more than one fee notification within the same calendar month. The family may receive two fee notifications if, for instance, at the beginning of the calendar month the child's hours in day care change from full-time to part-time day care and towards the end of that month the family's 17-year-old child turns 18 or another sibling starts attending day care.

### ***Invoicing***

**Invoicing starts** on the first day of day care agreed upon in the agreement. If the first day of day care takes place in the middle of a calendar month, the fee is charged in accordance with the number of days spent in day care. If the family decides not to accept the placement in day care and does not cancel it before the first day of day care, they will be charged half the amount of the monthly fee (a maximum of €145.00).

### **Records of attendance and absences** (see also Day care fees during holidays)

Day care places keep a record of children's attendance and absences. The family should immediately notify the day care place their child attends of the reason for the child's absence, because it cannot be changed in billing after the fact. Day care fees will be charged for the days when the child is absent, with the exception of the following cases:

- *when the child is absent for a whole calendar month due to an illness, no fee is charged*
- *when the child is absent for at least 11 days in a calendar month due to an illness, half of the monthly fee is charged*
- *when the child is absent for a whole calendar month due to a reason other than an illness, half of the monthly fee is charged*

After the child has spent a month in day care, **the invoice** for that calendar month will be mailed midway through the following month. Payment is due at the end of that following calendar month, for instance, day care fees from August are due at the end of September.

After the due date has passed, collection agency Intrum Justitia AB will be in charge of collecting any **unpaid day care fees**. Starting from the due date, an unpaid invoice will be subject to penal interest in accordance with the Interest Act.

**Invoicing will end** on the day when the day care agreement is terminated. The family must terminate the agreement in advance in writing. If the agreement is terminated in the middle of a calendar month, the fee is charged in accordance with the number of days spent in day care.

### **Compensation for monthly fees in family day care (childminding)**

If the family organises temporary care for their child when their regular day care service provider (childminder) is unavailable due to annual leave, sick leave, compensatory free time or a training day, the family receives a reduction to their day care fee for the days in question, as a daily discount. However, the family is not entitled to compensation if the child is absent from day care for personal or family-related reasons during a time when the regular day care service provider is also absent. A temporary day care place reserved due to the absence of the regular day care service provider must be cancelled in writing at the latest a week before the reservation is set to start in order for the client to be entitled to compensation.

### **Paternity leave**

When paternity leave is taken after the child has started day care, the family must provide Early Childhood Education service guidance with a copy of Kela's paternity leave decision. Day care fees will not be charged during paternity leave. However the child may not attend

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day care whilst paternity leave is ongoing. The child's day care place will be retained during paternity leave. The paternal leave should be informed to the child's Day Care Place at least two weeks before starting date. The family's other children may attend day care whilst paternity leave is ongoing.

### **Day care fees during holidays**

#### **July**

**July is free of charge** if the child's current day care agreement has started before the first day of September the previous year.

**If July is not free of charge**, the family will be charged

- half of the monthly fee if the child is absent for the whole of July
- the full monthly fee if the child spends **even one day in day care** in July.

#### **Two or three summer months free of charge**

For the time being, day care services are not subject to a fee in the summer if the child is absent from day care during June, July and August for **all three calendar months or two consecutive calendar months**, that is, for June and July, or July and August. The family **must notify** their day care service provider about the absence **in advance**.

(Primary Services Committee, 25 February 2009, section 129)

In spring, the family will be sent an inquiry in writing about the day care needs of the child over the summer.

#### **Other holidays**

If the child is on a holiday at other times during the year, temporary absences will be subject to a fee. If the child is absent for an entire calendar month, half of the monthly fee will be charged. (cf. Invoicing/Records of attendance and absences).

Pre-schools usually hold their autumn, Christmas and winter breaks at the same time as comprehensive schools. Before the holidays in question, day care centres and pre-schools will inquire about the children's need for day care.

During autumn, Christmas and winter breaks

- holidays do not reduce day care fees
- during holidays, a child attending pre-school can spend time in day care as needed without any changes to the day care fee.

#### **Reducing the fee or exemption from fees**

Families can apply for a reduction of the day care fee or an exemption from the fee on the basis of a maintenance obligation, difficulties in making a sufficient living or factors relating to providing suitable care and support. For application forms and guidance, please contact the head of a day care place, the head of your service area, or the day care administration. Before submitting an application, the family and the head of a day care place verify that the information on which the fee is based is correct. For instance, if the family's income has decreased, the fee is verified and the family does not need to apply for a reduction of the fee (cf. section Family's income/Verifying the fee).

#### **Fee for temporary day care**

Temporary day care refers to occasional need for day care services, which does not continue from month to month. The fee for temporary day care that lasts for a maximum of five days a month is 18 euros for full-time day care, and 12 euros for part-time day care.

#### **Other matters to keep in mind**

The family is not entitled to child home care allowance or private day care allowance if the child attends municipal day care.

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However, a child who receives child home care allowance or private day care allowance can take part in municipal pre-schooling for a year before the start of compulsory education. However, in this case the amount of private day care allowance granted to the child is reduced.

If the child's day care has been paid for with a voucher, the child cannot simultaneously receive child home care allowance or private day care allowance. The voucher is considered equal to municipal day care organised in accordance with section 11 of the Child Day Care Act even though the day care fee for day care organised with a voucher is determined differently from the fees in municipal day care.

A family that receives benefits is **obligated** to immediately notify the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) about their child's day care attendance and pre-schooling. Benefit paid without justification will be collected back from the family.

**If you need more information or have any questions related to the fee, please call 02-262 5609 on weekdays Mon–Fri 9:30am-11:30am and 2–3pm or send a message to [paivahoitomaksut@turku.fi](mailto:paivahoitomaksut@turku.fi)**