

## Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program

Questions and answers for families

### Affordability for parents

**Q: How does the Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program reduce fees for families? Do I need to apply?**

**A:** Parents and caregivers do not need to apply for the Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Funding Program, as the cost reduction to families is automatically applied by the program operator.

To reduce monthly payments for families, the Government of Yukon provides licensed early learning and child care operators with up to \$700 for each child registered full-time. Parents and caregivers of children in part-time programs receive a pro-rated reduction. Parents and caregivers of children attending on a drop-in basis are not eligible for funding.

**Q: How does the Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Funding program reduce fees for families with school-age children?**

**A:** To reduce monthly payments for families, the Government of Yukon provides licensed early learning and child care operators offering after-school care with \$350 for kindergarten and \$300 for grade 1 and older, for each child registered full-time. During summer months, licensed programs providing out-of-school care receive \$700 for kindergarten children and \$500 for grade 1 and older, for each child registered full-time. Parents and caregivers of children in part-time programs will receive a pro-rated reduction. Parents and caregivers of children attending on a drop-in basis are not eligible for funding.

**Q: What will my invoice look like?**

**A:** Sample Invoice:

Monthly child care fee:	\$ 850.00
Yukon Government contribution	
<u>Paid directly to the provider:</u>	<u>\$(700.00)</u>
Family pays directly to the provider:	\$ 150.00

**Q: Will the Child Care Subsidy Program, Teen Parent Grant, and Grandparent Grant continue?**

**A:** Yes, Yukon families will continue to benefit from these programs.

**Q: When did the Early Learning and Child Care Program become available?**

**A:** The Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Program began on April 1, 2021.

**Q: Is this program income tested?**

**A:** No, this program is not income tested. To reduce monthly payments for families, the Government of Yukon provides licensed operators with funding for each child registered in full-time or part-time early learning and child care programs. Existing subsidies such as the Child Care Subsidy Program, Teen Parent Grant, and the Grandparent Grant continue to be available.

**Q: How will I know if my provider is participating in the program?**

**A:** All licensed operators in the Yukon are participating in the program.

**Q: What are the highlights of the Early Learning and Child Care funding program?**

1. Provides increased funding to licensed early learning and child care operators to reduce fee payments made by parents.
2. Provides an additional payment to operators to reduce operational and administrative expenses and support program needs.
3. Provides funding to support high-quality early learning environments.
4. Provides additional funding to increase wages paid by operators to early childhood educators to support retention and career development.

## Children attendance

**Q: Do children have to attend early learning and child care programs regularly?**

**A:** We encourage regular participation of children enrolled in early learning and child care programs. However, we understand that in some cases children may not be able to attend regularly due to a variety of circumstances.

**Q: Will operators report on the attendance of children in their program?**

**A:** We encourage early learning and child care programs to discuss the benefits of regular attendance with families. Under this funding program, operators are required to report attendance.

**Q: Will funding be provided when a child is absent?**

**A:** Funding will be available during both voluntary and non-voluntary absences (e.g., family vacation, sickness, medical travel, bereavement, First Nations harvesting, and cultural activities). There must always be space available for the child if the family is charged a fee, regardless of whether or not a child is in attendance. Attendance must be maintained at 75% of the registered use to maintain full funding.

**Q: Will funding be available for an extended absence?**

**A:** Funding will not be provided in cases where families are paying to 'save a space' for an extended period when the space could otherwise be occupied by another child.

**Q: What is considered an extended absence?**

**A:** An extended absence is considered to be a voluntary absence of longer than 4 consecutive weeks.

**Q: Can families pay the full fee to reserve a space?**

**A:** Families retain the option of paying the full fee directly to the operator in these circumstances.

**Q: How are fees for licensed programs determined?**

**A:** Through the licensing process, fees for new early learning and child care operators who are accessing Government of Yukon funding must be approved by the Department of Education. New operators will need to stay within 3% of the Yukon average fee. Existing programs can increase fees annually on April 1 by 3% if they are within 10% of the Yukon average fee or by 1% if they are above 10% of the Yukon average fee.

The Department of Education will consider exceptions for operators based on the specific circumstances of their program.

**Q: Where can I find more information about the Early Learning and Child Care funding program?**

**A:** You can go online to [Yukon.ca/early-learning](http://Yukon.ca/early-learning) or email questions to [earlylearning@yukon.ca](mailto:earlylearning@yukon.ca) and someone will reply within 3 business days.

For more information or to ask questions, please email [earlylearning@yukon.ca](mailto:earlylearning@yukon.ca)