

ABSENCES FROM CHILD CARE

Fact
Sheets

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EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Absences from child care

What is an absence day?

Under the Child Care Subsidy families are allowed 42 absence days per child, per financial year. These 42 allowable absences can be taken for any reason, including public holidays and when children are sick, without the need for families to provide documentation.

Absences should only be claimed when care would have been provided if the child was not absent, and the family has been charged a fee for the session of care. Child Care Subsidy is not payable for absences submitted before a child has started at a service, or after a child's final day of actual attendance at a service.

If a child is absent for more than one session of child care on the same day, such as both before and after school care, it is counted as one absence day.

Child care providers must keep records of each absence for the child. Families can see their year to date absence count through their Centrelink online account via myGov.

Why do families pay for child care on a public holiday?

It is a business decision for each child care provider whether or not they choose to charge families a fee for public holidays, where a session of care would have usually been provided. If a family is charged a fee for public holidays then the Child Care Subsidy can be paid as an absence day.

What is an additional absence day?

Child Care Subsidy can only be paid for any additional absences where they are taken for a reason defined in the Family Assistance Law. Reasons for the additional absence days are:

- The child, the individual who cares for the child, the individual's partner or another person with whom the child lives is ill.
- The child is attending pre-school.
- Alternative arrangements have been made on a pupil-free day.

- The child has not been immunised against a particular infectious disease, the absence occurs during an immunisation grace period and a medical practitioner has certified that exposure to the infectious disease would pose a health risk to the child.
- The absence is because the child is spending time with a person other than the individual who is their usual carer as required by a court order or a parenting plan.
- The service is closed as a direct result of a period of local emergency.
- The child cannot attend because of a local emergency (e.g. because they are unable to travel to the service), during the period of the emergency or up to 28 days afterwards.
- The individual who cares for the child has decided the child should not attend the service for up to seven days immediately following the end of a period of local emergency.

Where can I get further information on the child care package?

- Visit the Department of Education and Training Child Care Package website at education.gov.au/eccc
- Visit the Department of Human Services Child Care Subsidy website humanservices.gov.au/childcaresubsidy

