

# CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

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EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

## CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

At this stage we will encourage you to contact the Family Assistance Office (Centrelink) to have your eligibility for Child Care Subsidy assessed.

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is a payment made by the Australian Government to help families with the cost of quality childcare and early education. This is paid directly to the service to reduce your weekly fees. Three things will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy

1. A family's combined income will determine the percentage of subsidy they are eligible to receive.
2. An activity test will determine how many hours of subsidised care families can access, up to a maximum of 100 per fortnight.
3. The type of childcare service will determine the hourly rate cap. Some basic requirements must be satisfied for an individual to be eligible to receive the Child Care Subsidy. These include
  - The age of the child (must be 13 or under and not attending secondary school).
  - The child meeting immunisation requirements.
  - The individual, or their partner, meeting the residency requirements.

The number of hours of subsidised childcare that families will have access to per fortnight will be determined by a three-step activity test. In two parent families both parents, unless exempt, must meet the activity test. In the case where both parents meet different steps of the activity test, the parent with the lowest entitlement will determine the hours of subsidised care for the child. Low income families on \$66,958 or less a year who do not meet the activity test will be able to access 24 hours of subsidised care per child per fortnight without having to meet the activity test, as part of the Child Care Safety Net.

HOURS OF ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM SUBSIDY HOURS (PER CHILD)
8 – 16 hrs.	36 hrs.
More than 16 hrs. – 48 hrs.	72 hrs.
More than 48 hrs.	100 hrs.

