

Free preschool education /childcare program starts in October 2019

Who will be covered?

Children aged 3 – 5 (before entering elementary school) will be. Children aged 0 – 2 in non-taxable households and “with the necessity of childcare”, too.

What is a household “with the necessity of childcare”?

It is a household in which no parent/guardian can take care of the children at home because of working (at least 64 hours per month) or studying.
A household with a parent staying at home is not covered.



What will be free?

→The coverage will vary depending on whether you are with the necessity of childcare and what type of facility you use.

Free for a child with the necessity of childcare

(Double-income family, etc.) (There is an upper limit for some.):

【Age 3 – 5】

Childcare fees of nursery schools / certified kodomo-en / kindergartens

Extended hour childcare fees at kindergartens / certified kodomo-en (Cat. 1)

Fees of unauthorized childcare facilities

【Age 0 – 2】

(Only non-taxable household)Childcare fees of nursery schools / certified kodomo-en

(Only non-taxable household)Fees of unauthorized childcare facilities



Expenses which parents should pay

- Additional charge set by each facility (specific burden)
- Certain actual expenses such as uniforms, hats, and supplies
- Food costs ※ (about ¥ 7,500 per month, the amount will vary among facilities)
Food costs, which have been included in childcare fees, will be collected separately.
- Event fees
- Transportation fees

※ Some households will be exempted from side meal fees (side dishes and snacks) among food costs.



Free for a child without the necessity of childcare

(With a parent staying at home, etc.) (There is an upper limit for some):

【Age 3 – 5】

Childcare fees of certified kodomo-en / kindergartens



Notes: Regardless of the necessity of childcare, the user burden of child development support fees for children aged 3 to entering elementary school will be free.

Q&A

Q. Can a household certified “with the necessity of childcare” always use the extended hour service at kindergartens or certified Kodomo-en (Cat. 1)?

→**A.** The capacities of extended hour service vary among facilities. So, households “with the necessity of childcare” cannot always use the service.

Q. The childcare fees of kindergartens and certified kodomo-en (Cat. 1) are less than 25,700 yen. May I apply the balance to the extended hour or other services? →**A.** No.

Q. Can we use unauthorized facilities instead of extended hour service?

→**A.** In principle, no. However, if the facility your child attends doesn't provide enough extended hour service, you may be able to use an unauthorized one free of charge up to a set amount.

Q. If my eldest child is covered by this free-childcare program, will the sibling discount (half for the second child and free for the third) apply?

→**A.** Yes. Your 2nd one will be treated as the 2nd and the 3rd as the 3rd.

Q. Will this free-childcare program be applicable to the “preparatory classes” of kindergartens? →**A.** No.

Q. Will International preschools be subject to this free-childcare program?

→**A.** If the preschool is registered as a kindergarten, all households will be covered. If it is registered as an unauthorized childcare, only the households with the necessity of childcare will be covered.

Should I apply for this free preschool program?

(With/without necessity: with/without the necessity of childcare **Cat. 1/2/3**: category 1/2/3)

【Those who need not apply】

- Parents who use nursery schools / Cat. 2 or 3 service at certified kodomo-en.
- Parents “WITHOUT necessity” who use Cat.1 service at certified kodomo-en.
- Parents “WITHOUT necessity” who use Cat. 1 service at kindergartens under the new system. .

【Those who should apply】

- Parents “WITH necessity” who use Cat. 1 service at certified kodomo-en →New Cat. 2 application. (New Cat. 3, for non-taxable households)
- Parents “WITH necessity” who use Cat. 1 service at kindergartens under the new system. →New Cat. 2 application.. (New Cat. 3, for non-taxable households)
- Parents “WITHOUT necessity” who use kindergartens under the existing system → New Cat. 1 application
- Parents “WITH necessity” who use kindergartens under the existing system. → New Cat. 2 application (New Cat. 3 for non-taxable households)
- Parents “WITH necessity” who use unauthorized childcare facilities. →New Cat. 2 application (New Cat. 3 for non-taxable households)

How to apply for new benefits certification (new Cat. 1 -3)

We will distribute application forms at facilities in Toyonaka for their users.

• For new Cat. 1 certification, submit the application form.

• For new Cat. 2 / 3 certification, submit documents showing your “necessity of childcare,” as well as the application form.

※ Contact us separately if you use a facility outside of Toyonaka and do not get application forms by the end of July.

Some should,
others need not.

