



TERMS & CONDITIONS
for
FREE CHILDCARE SCHEME CHILDCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS

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- Jobsplus/Government is willing to enter into Public-Private Partnerships with Child Day Care Facilities, thereby establishing the Free Childcare Scheme. Children whose parents are in work or in education can benefit from the scheme. 'Parents in work' is defined as both parents/guardians who are in work, or single mother/father/guardian who are in work and paying social security contributions. 'Parents in education' is defined as both parents/guardians who are in education leading to a recognised diploma or degree or single mother/father/guardian who are in education.
- Jobsplus/Government will pay the Centre a uniform rate per age group (Rate 1 = 0-12 months, Rate 2 = 13-36 months or until the first eligible State Kinder 1 intake) as shown in the table below. Rates listed are per hour per child availing of the Free Childcare Scheme.

YEAR	0 – 12 months	13 – 36 months / or upon 1 st eligibility for Kinder 1)
2022* (from 1 st February 2022)	€4.50	€4.30
2023	€4.80	€4.55
2024	€5.00	€4.85

- The uniform rate being paid covers staff costs and consumables including stationery. It will not cover for costs that relate to individual child needs, such as food, nappies and wipes. Cost of outings is not included.
- Jobsplus/Government will settle the amounts due to the Centre for each month via direct credit within ten (10) working days from the 3rd day of each month, provided that the End of Month Run which is automatically generated by the CIS is verified and approved by Jobsplus/Government.
- Jobsplus/Government will pay childcare facilities the full rate, if attendance for the month is equivalent to the booked hours. If attendance is less than the booked hours, the remaining balance will be deducted from the absence entitlement.
- These absence days will apply pro-rata on a calendar basis and will be equivalent to 25% of the booked hours. The provision includes the allowance for absence for medical reasons. Parents are to pay childcare centres for absence days in excess of the above.



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7. Service providers will not be paid nor will be able to charge for days for which parents advise at least one (1) month in advance that they will not be making use of childcare.
8. The Government/Jobsplus appreciates that the needs of the children and the parents may change from time to time. For this reason, the Government encourages flexibility on the part of the service provider. Parents have the right to change the number of hours and/or days or times according to their needs, provided that they give one-month notice by not later than the last week of the month. This does not apply to parents who send their children to independent schools.
9. The Government/Jobsplus understands the service providers' need to have occasional breaks in the service. However, the service provider will not be paid by the Government nor will be able to charge parents who avail themselves of the Free Childcare Scheme fees for shut-down or closed days.
10. Legal procedures apply if providers are found guilty of fraud or attempt to fraud the Free Childcare System.