

Fees and Whānau Payments at Kindergarten

20 Hours ECE

At Hutt City Kindergartens we offer the Government's **20 Hours ECE** option to families and are committed to keeping our kindergartens affordable for everyone.

What does 20 Hours ECE (Early Childhood Education) mean?

Quite simply, because our kindergartens are teacher-led and provide service to 3-5 year olds, all you need to do is enrol your child and you can claim the **20 hours ECE**. So, for up to six hours a day to a maximum of 20 hours per week, the cost of your child attending our kindergartens is largely covered, no matter how many hours you work or how much you earn.

Here is how it works

- The Government funds up to 20 hours per week of early childhood education (ECE) for all 3, 4 and 5 year olds at a teacher-led service such as kindergarten.
- A child can have up to 6 hours per day, to a total of 20 hours per week.
- You can use your child's **20 Hours ECE** at more than one early childhood education service, as long as their total of **20 Hours ECE** across all services is no more than 6 hours per day, up to 20 hours per week. It's your choice.
- Unused **20 Hours ECE** cannot be carried forward to another week.
- You cannot be charged a compulsory fee for any **20 Hours ECE** you use at any service, however you can be asked to make a voluntary extra payment.

How do I claim my 20 Hours ECE?

- Simply complete and sign the declaration on the back page of the Enrolment Form. This is a legal agreement confirming to the Ministry of Education how you are going to use your **20 Hours ECE**.

- As soon as we have this and you've completed a full Enrolment Form, you can receive the **20 Hours ECE** – there is no waiting period.
- You must let the teaching team know immediately if you want to change the way you are using your child's **20 Hours ECE**. You will need to complete and sign an updated agreement which the kindergarten will give to you.

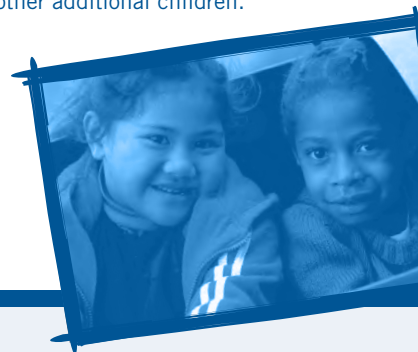
For more information on **20 Hours ECE** visit the Parents Section of the Ministry of Education's website at www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/EarlyYears.

Whānau Payments

From 2011, Government funding will only cover the cost of having 80% of our teachers qualified. We believe this does not provide high quality ECE and are committed to operating with all our teachers trained and registered. So, in order for us to continue having **100% qualified teachers**, we will be asking families to support us with a voluntary Whānau Payment of \$0.50 per hour, as a small contribution towards the cost of providing their **20 Hours ECE**.

This is not a compulsory fee but we need our families to help us by making this payment so we can continue to provide the same high quality service at our kindergartens. Families with more than one child at kindergarten at the same time are asked to pay \$0.25 per hour for their second, third or other additional children.

Note – Whānau Payments are classed as a donation by IRD. Your kindergarten will give you a receipt you can use to apply for a Tax Credit.



Kindergarten Fees

If your child attends kindergarten for more than 20 hours a week, or you are spreading your **20 Hours ECE** across more than one early childhood centre, you will be charged a fee for the additional hours.

From 1 January 2011 this fee is \$3.50 per hour including GST. However, families with more than one child, who use their full **20 Hours ECE** with us for all their children at kindergarten, will be charged a discounted rate of \$2.50 per hour including GST.

You will be given at least 10 week's notice of any change in this fee. The current fee level will always be advertised on your kindergarten notice board.

Some more information about fees

- If your child is aged 2 when they start, and you confirm they'll be using their **20 Hours ECE** at kindergarten once they turn 3, you will not be charged a fee.
- If your child attends 4¼ hour morning sessions, you will not be charged for the additional 15 minutes each day (1¼ hours per week), provided your child either:
 - Attends five mornings per week and you allocate all their **20 Hours ECE** to the kindergarten, OR
 - Attends fewer than five mornings per week, but covers all their enrolled hours with **20 Hours ECE**These additional 1¼ hours are 'not counted' in any Fee or Family Payment calculation.

Kindergarten Fees Continued ...

- If you have more than one child, and you are using your full entitlement of **20 Hours ECE** for all your children at kindergarten, you will be charged a discounted rate of \$2.50 inc GST per hour.
- Fees are charged for any Public Holiday that falls during a regular kindergarten week.
- Fees are charged for each session your child is enrolled to attend, even if they are absent.
- If your child is absent due to illness for more than 5 consecutive days on which they would normally attend, you can ask the kindergarten for a refund.
- We ask for two week's notice if your child will be leaving kindergarten. We may charge you for these weeks if we do not receive notice.
- There will be no charge for the children of any permanent Hutt City Kindergarten staff or Board members.
- You will be asked to sign a Fee Contract when you complete an Enrolment Form for your child.

Paying your fees

- Fees are invoiced at the start of each week - with payment due on the following Monday.
- We prefer Automatic Payments or internet banking for the payment of fees.
- You will receive statements and reminders if your fees are unpaid.
- Any fees outstanding on the 3rd

business day of each month will become part of our Credit Control/Debt Collection process. The cost of collection may be added to your unpaid fees.

Getting help with your fees

You may be able to get a WINZ Childcare Subsidy to help with the payment of your fees. To find out if your family qualifies:

- Ask at your kindergarten for a WINZ brochure
- Call WINZ on 0800 774 004
- Visit www.workandincome.govt.nz

How much will I end up paying?

This will depend on how you choose to use your 20 Hours ECE, how many children you have and the number of hours they spend at kindergarten. Here are some examples to help you work it out.



Example 1

Your child attends Kindergarten 5 mornings a week, from 8.15 am - 12.30 pm. You allocate all your 20 hours ECE to the Kindergarten.

Total weekly hours 21¼
Hours not counted 1¼
Total chargeable hours 20

Whānau Payments (voluntary):

20 hours @ \$0.50 per hour . . . \$10.00

Fees

No fees payable

Total per week \$10.00

Total for a 10 week term \$100.00

This total counts as a donation and is eligible for an IRD Tax Credit.

Example 2

Your child attends Kindergarten 5 mornings a week, from 8.15 am - 12.30 pm. You allocate 10 hours of your 20 hours ECE to the Kindergarten, and the other 10 hours to another ECE service.

Total weekly hours 21¼
Hours not counted 0
Total chargeable hours 21¼

(The additional 1¼ hours are not discounted unless your child is using ALL their 20 hours ECE at Kindergarten.)

Whānau Payments (voluntary):

10 hours @ \$0.50 per hour . . . \$5.00

Fees

11¼ hours @ \$3.50 per hour . . \$39.38

Total per week \$44.38

Total for a 10 week term \$443.80

Only the Whānau Payment of \$5.00 per week counts as a donation and is eligible for an IRD Tax Credit.

Example 3

Your son attends Kindergarten 5 mornings a week, from 8.15 am - 12.30 pm. You are not using any of your 20 hours ECE at the Kindergarten as your son attends another ECE service in the afternoons.

Total weekly hours 21¼
Hours not counted 0
Total chargeable hours 21¼

Whānau Payments (voluntary):

0 hours @ \$0.50 per hour . . . nil
(you are not using any 20 Hours ECE)

Fees

21¼ hours @ \$3.50 per hour . . \$74.38

Total per week \$74.38

Total for a 10 week term \$743.80

Example 4

Your daughter attends Kindergarten 5 days a week, from 8.30 am - 2.45 pm. You allocate all of her 20 hours ECE to the Kindergarten.

Total weekly hours 31¼
Hours not counted 0
Total chargeable hours 31¼

Whānau Payments (voluntary):

20 hours @ \$0.50 per hour . . . \$10.00

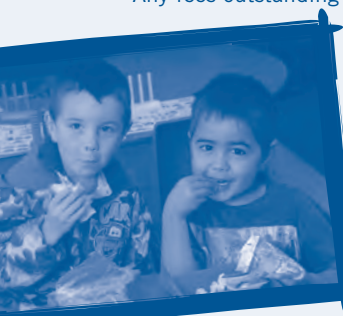
Fees

11¼ hours @ \$3.50 per hour . . \$39.37

Total per week \$49.37

Total for a 10 week term \$493.70

Only the Whānau Payment of \$10.00 per week counts as a donation and is eligible for an IRD Tax Credit.



If you have any queries about your Fees or Whānau Payments, please talk to your Kindergarten Administrator.
Thank you.