



Fee relief in community and mobile preschools

Starting in 2023, a landmark investment of \$1.3 billion over 4 years will provide fee relief to families with children in preschool.

If your child is eligible and enrolled at a eligible community or mobile preschool, fee relief funding will reduce your fees up to a maximum of \$4,220 per year.

From early 2023, this fee relief is available to all eligible families through the Start Strong for Community Preschools program.

The fee relief will be passed on to you by your community or mobile preschool service as a reduction to your fees. Services will let you know a fee relief reduction has been made to your fees, such as via a regular invoice, statement from the service, or other means.

You will still need to pay any remaining fees and/or levies after the fee relief has been applied.

How is my fee relief calculated?

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring that all children in New South Wales can participate in 600 hours of quality preschool education in the year or two years before school, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are.

Fee relief funding is scaled by hours of enrolment to encourage 600 hours per year of early childhood education for children in preschools.

If your child attends a community or mobile preschool, the fee relief will be calculated based on the number of hours your child is enrolled (up to 600 hours per year), as outlined in the table on the next page.

Per child hours of enrolment per year	Indicative average hours per week, based on a 40-week year	Percentage of per child base rate received	Per child funding rate
600 hours or more	15 hours or more	100%	\$4,220
480 to less than 600 hours	12 to less than 15 hours	80%	\$3,376
400 to less than 480 hours	10 to less than 12 hours	70%	\$2,954
320 to less than 400 hours	8 to less than 10 hours	60%	\$2,532
Greater than 240 to less than 320 hours	Greater than 6 to less than 8 hours	50%	\$2,110
240 hours or fewer	6 hours or fewer	40%	\$1,688

The amount of fee relief you receive each year may increase slightly in line with changes in the cost of living. You will be advised about any changes by your service.

More information on funding rates can be found in the Start Strong for Community Preschool Guidelines.

Example 1: If your child is enrolled for 15 hours across two days a week (based on a 40-week year), your fee relief will be \$4,220 across the year (\$105.50 per week).

Example 2: If your child is enrolled for 7.5 hours for one day a week (based on a 40-week year), your fee relief will be \$2,110 across the year (\$52.75 per week).

Can I get fee relief from more than one preschool service?

No, you can only access fee relief from one eligible service at any given time.

An eligible service may include a community preschool or long day care service.

All parents or caregivers are required to complete a declaration form that nominates which service you are choosing to receive your fee relief from.

Your service will assist with this process.

What happens if my child is sick and does not attend the service for the day?

Your fee relief amount does not change if your child is sick and does not attend one of their enrolled days.

You will still receive the reduced fee from your service.

The fee relief is linked to enrolment not attendance.

What information will I need to provide to access the fee relief?

In order to access the fee relief, you will need to complete a declaration and a consent form and your service will help you do this.

You will need to consent to your service sharing some of your child's information with the NSW Department of Education.

Your service will provide you with a declaration and a consent form which explains what details are required and how the information will be used.

Will preschool continue to be free in 2023?

Community and mobile preschools are responsible for making their own decisions, including setting fees and additional charges, in consultation with their communities.

Fee relief funding will provide community and mobile preschools with sustainable long-term funding to deliver 600 hours of low, or no cost, preschool to eligible children.

Preschool services will receive fee relief funding to reduce the cost of daily fees for families for 600 hours per year. Families can expect to see fee relief applied to their daily fees across the preschool year.

Where can I find more information?

Speak to your service to better understand how the fee relief is being passed on to you.

For more information on fee relief, visit education.nsw.gov.au/startstrong.

Contact us on **1800 619 113**, or by emailing ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.