## Child-care subsidy rates adjusted for full-day K

**Author:** Government of British Columbia. Ministry of Children and Family Development. **Source:** Government of British Columbia. Ministry of Children and Family Development.

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AVAILABILITY
Press release [2]
More information [3]

Full text of the press release:

To align with the implementation of full-day kindergarten this fall and ensure consistency for all school-aged children, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is adjusting child-care subsidy rates.

Effective Sept. 1, 2011, the ministry is increasing the maximum monthly subsidy rate for parents requiring care before and after school, on non-instructional days and during school closures.

Subsidy rates for four hours of care or less per day will increase to \$175 per month and rates for more than four hours per day will increase to \$210 per month. This increase will financially compensate each school-aged child for one full day of child care per month during the school year, in the event that school is closed (e.g., for holidays or a professional development day).

Families of approximately 5,600 children will benefit from this rate increase.

Families of approximately 3,500 school-aged children receiving full-time child care will benefit by an average of \$9.30 per month from a higher subsidy rate, while families of approximately 2,100 school-aged children receiving part-time child care will benefit by an average of \$4.65 per month.

Also effective Sept. 1, 2011, the ministry is adjusting subsidy rates for children attending full-day kindergarten in the fall. Subsidy rates are being reduced from \$340-550 per month (depending on the child-care setting) to \$210 per month, while the net income exemption threshold (income cut-off for a full subsidy) is decreasing from \$33,300 to \$21,480 per year for families with a kindergarten-aged child attending child care.

The current income threshold and subsidy rates were established prior to the implementation of full-day kindergarten when five-year-olds required longer hours of child care compared to school-aged children, resulting in greater costs to parents and providers. These changes recognize that most children turning five during the school year will be enrolled in full-day kindergarten and will attend school for the same number of hours as older children.

Government has invested \$296 million in child care this year. The annual investment in child care subsidies is \$154 million this year. The subsidy program supports about 54,000 individual children each year.

About 97,000 licensed child-care spaces are funded in communities throughout the province - and more than \$35 million in capital funding has been provided to create more than 6,500 licensed child-care spaces since 2001.

For further information about B.C.'s child care subsidy program, go to:

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/subsidy\_promo.htm [3]

Related link: News: Child care subsidy changes [4]

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