

# [Information About Free Early Childhood Education and Childcare]



PR Character – M-jiro

Free early childhood education and childcare is for the purpose of guaranteeing opportunities for early childhood education and childcare to foster lifelong character building for children. Rollout commenced in October 2019 in order to alleviate the financial burden on households with children. In order to be eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits, you must receive approval of benefits.

## [Scope of Free Early Childhood Education and Childcare]

Eligibility and content of free early childhood education and childcare are as follows.

Age of child	Relevant facilities and businesses	Free content
3-5 years old (childcare required)	Authorized childcare center <a href="#">P.4</a> ➔ Certified center for early childhood education (childcare certified) <a href="#">P.4</a> ➔ Kindergarten* <a href="#">P.5</a> ➔ Company-run childcare facility* <a href="#">P.8</a> ➔ Developmental support for children with disabilities, etc. <a href="#">P.8</a> ➔	Free *Free up to ¥25,700 for kindergartens that have not yet transitioned to the new system *Standard usage fees waived for company-run childcare facilities
	Extended-hours childcare at a kindergarten or certified center for early childhood education (education certified) <a href="#">P.7</a> ➔	Monthly fee waived up to ¥11,300 *Monthly fees waived up to ¥16,300 for people that have not yet reached March 31 subsequent to reaching 3 years of age for households not subject to inhabitants tax
	Non-authorized childcare facility, temporary childcare business, childcare business for sick children, family support center business, etc. <a href="#">P.7</a> ➔	Monthly fee waived up to ¥37,000 *In principle, this does not include users of kindergartens and authorized childcare centers, etc.
3-5 years old (childcare not required)	Kindergarten* <a href="#">P.5</a> ➔ Certified center for early childhood education (education certified) <a href="#">P.5</a> ➔ Developmental support for children with disabilities, etc. <a href="#">P.8</a> ➔	Free *Free up to ¥25,700 for kindergartens that have not yet transitioned to the new system
0-2 years old from households not subject to inhabitants tax (childcare required)	Authorized childcare center <a href="#">P.4</a> ➔ Certified center for early childhood education (childcare certified) <a href="#">P.4</a> ➔ Local childcare business <a href="#">P.4</a> ➔ Company-run childcare facility* <a href="#">P.8</a> ➔	Free *Standard usage fees waived for company-run childcare facilities
	Non-authorized childcare facility, temporary childcare business, childcare business for sick children, family support center business, etc. <a href="#">P.7</a> ➔	Monthly fee waived up to ¥42,000 *In principle, this does not include users of kindergartens and authorized childcare centers, etc.

**[Approval of Benefits]**

In order to receive free early childhood education or childcare, an application for either (1) approval of education and childcare benefits or (2) approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc., is required from the parent or legal guardian of the child. A new application is not required for children that already use an authorized childcare center or certified center for early childhood education (childcare certified), etc., as they have already received (1) approval of education and childcare benefits.

**<(1) approval of education and childcare benefits>**

**<(2) approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc.>**

Approval classification	Age	Childcare required	Relevant service
1	3-5 years old	No	Kindergarten under the new system or certified center for early childhood education (education certified)
2	3-5 years old	Yes	Authorized childcare center or certified center for early childhood education (childcare certified), etc.
3	0-2 years old		

Approval classification	Age	Childcare required	Relevant service
New 1	3-5 years old	No	Kindergarten that has not yet transitioned to the new system
New 2	3-5 years old	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extended-hours childcare at a kindergarten, etc.</li> <li>• Non-authorized childcare facility, etc.</li> </ul>
New 3	0-3 years old		

**[Eligibility for Approval of Benefits for Use of Facilities, etc.]**

People who use kindergartens that have not yet transitioned to the new system, people who use extended-hours childcare from kindergartens, etc., in excess of school hours and require childcare, and people who use non-authorized childcare facilities, etc., must receive approval of benefits in order to receive free early childhood education or childcare.

Eligible persons	Approval classification
People who use kindergartens that have not yet transitioned to the new system (including cases in which extended-hours childcare is used without childcare being required)	New 1
People for whom childcare is required, who use extended-hours childcare provided by kindergartens or certified centers for early childhood education, or who use non-authorized childcare facilities, etc.	New 2
People from households not subject to inhabitants tax for whom childcare is required, who have not yet reached March 31 after turning 3 years of age	New 3

[About the Requirement for Childcare]

“Childcare required” means parents or guardians find it difficult to care for children at their home for reasons such as work or illness, and it is recognized that childcare is required at the facility that they use.

Reason childcare is required	Specific circumstances
(1) Work (employment (including part time), self-employment, or secondary employment, etc.)	48 or more hours worked per month.
(2) Pregnancy or childbirth of mother	The period immediately before or after the mother gives birth. (In principle, the period for which benefits are approved is the 5-month period of the month in which the baby is due and the 2 months to either side.)
(3) Illness, injury, or disability	A parent or guardian of the child is ill, injured or disabled.
(4) Nursing care for sick or elderly	Nursing care is provided for a sick or elderly cohabiting relative (including a relative undergoing long-term hospitalization) on an ongoing basis.
(5) Disaster	The person is unable to attend to childcare due to damage to the residence caused by a disaster, etc., or other disaster recovery efforts.
(6) Job-hunting	Conducting job-hunting activities during the day (including preparation to launch a business).
(7) Education	The person is unable to attend to childcare due to enrolment at a vocational training school or a school or specialized training college as defined by the School Education Act, etc. (48 or more hours attended per month.)
(8) Social care is required	There is a risk of abuse or domestic violence and social care is required.
(9) Childcare leave	Childcare leave has been taken. The child is already using facilities and it is necessary to continue use.

## People Who Use Authorized Childcare Centers or Certified Centers for Early Childhood Education (Childcare Certified), etc.

In order to use an authorized childcare center, a certified center for early childhood education (childcare certified), or a local childcare business (small-scale childcare or family childcare, etc.), it is required to “require childcare” and receive (1) approval of education and childcare benefits (page 2) from the City.

### [1. Usage Fees]

Usage fees will be waived for all children aged 3 to 5 and children aged 0 to 2 from households not subject to inhabitants tax. Furthermore, usage fees for the 2<sup>nd</sup> child are half those for the 1<sup>st</sup> child, and usage fees for the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and subsequent children are waived altogether regardless of age, as long as the breadwinner is the same, in order to alleviate the burden on households with 2 or more children. Extended-hours childcare fees and event fees, etc., shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously.

### [2. Approval of Benefits]

Using facilities requires approval of education and childcare benefits, so there is no need for extra procedures to have fees waived.





### [3. Meal Fees]

Meal fees (supplementary meal fees) for children aged 3 to 5 shall be borne by parents and guardians and paid to the facility used. Core meal fees will continue to be borne by the City. Supplementary meal fees will be waived for households with annual income of less than ¥3.6 million as well as for the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and any subsequent children (not including children who have entered elementary school).

Age of child	Usage fees	Fees other than usage fees (extended hours childcare fees and event fees, etc.)	Meal fees	
			Core meal fees (rice, etc.)	Secondary meal fees (side dishes and snacks, etc.)
3-5 years old	Free	Borne by parent or guardian	—	Borne by parent or guardian
0-2 years old from households not subject to inhabitants tax	Free		—	—
0-2 years old from households subject to inhabitants tax	Determined according to income		—	Borne by parent or guardian as usage fees

\*Please check with the facility you are using if using a facility outside the City as treatment may be different by the relevant local government.

\*Meal fees (core meal fees) for children aged 3 to 5 who use a certified center for early childhood education (childcare certified) shall be paid to the facility before being refunded by the City upon application.

Example  Childcare fee calculation method for siblings in order of birth	1 <sup>st</sup> child	2 <sup>nd</sup> child	3 <sup>rd</sup> child
	Amount of childcare fees	 (1) 1 <sup>st</sup> year elementary school	 (1) 5 years old (eligible for free childcare)
—		Full amount	Half amount
			 (3) 0 years old
			¥0

## People Who Use Kindergartens That Have Transitioned to the New System and Certified Centers for Early Childhood Education (Education Certified)

In order to use a kindergarten\* that has transitioned to the new system or a certified center for early childhood education (education certified), it is required to receive (1) approval of education and childcare benefits (page 2) from the City.

### [1. Usage Fees]

Usage fees will be waived for all children aged 3 to 5. Usage fees will be waived for children from the age of 3 if children can be enrolled at the kindergarten or certified center for early childhood education used from the age of 3. Please contact the facility used for details. Travel expenses, educational materials expenses, and event fees, etc., shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously. Preschool before kindergarten is not subject to waiver of fees.

### [2. Approval of Benefits]

Using facilities requires approval of education and childcare benefits, so there is no need for extra procedures to have fees waived.

### [3. Meal Fees]

Meal fees shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously. Supplementary meal fees will be waived for households with annual income of less than ¥3.6 million as well as for the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and any subsequent children (not including children who have commenced 4<sup>th</sup> year elementary school).

Age of child	Usage fees	Fees other than usage fees (travel expenses, etc.)	Meal fees	
			Core meal fees (rice, etc.)	Secondary meal fees (side dishes and snacks, etc.)
3-5 years old	Free	Borne by parent or guardian		

## People Who Use Kindergartens That Have Not Yet Transitioned to the New System

In order to use a kindergarten that has not yet transitioned to the new system, it is required to receive (2) approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc. (page 2) from the City.

### [1. Usage Fees]

Usage fees (including entry fees) will be waived for all children aged 3 to 5 up to ¥25,700 per month. Usage fees will be waived for children from the age of 3 if children can be enrolled at the kindergarten used from the age of 3. Please contact the facility used for details. Travel expenses, educational materials expenses, and event fees, etc., shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously. Preschool before kindergarten is not subject to waiver of fees.

\*This refers to kindergartens that have transitioned to the new child and childcare support system that commenced in FY2015. Kindergartens have different usage procedures and usage fees, etc., under the current system.

## [2. Approval of Benefits]

In order to be eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits, you must receive a new approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc. (new approval 1).

## [3. Meal Fees]

Meal fees shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously. Supplementary meal fees will be subsidized up to ¥4,500 per month for households with annual income of less than ¥3.6 million as well as for the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and any subsequent children (not including children who have commenced 4<sup>th</sup> year elementary school).

Age of child	Usage fees	Fees other than usage fees (travel expenses, etc.)	Meal fees	
			Core meal fees (rice, etc.)	Secondary meal fees (side dishes and snacks, etc.)
3-5 years old	Free	Borne by parent or guardian		

### **Subsidy to alleviate burden on parents and guardians of children attending private**

**kindergartens, etc.** (applies to both the new system and kindergartens that have not yet transitioned)

Subsidies will be paid up to the amount of entry fees and usage fees, etc., paid to private kindergartens, etc., according to the income of the household.

Expenses borne by parent or guardian	Subsidy to alleviate burden on parents and guardians of children attending private kindergartens, etc.	
	Metropolitan subsidy	City subsidy
Usage fees	Eligible	Eligible
Entry fees	Not eligible*	
Other fees (facility maintenance fees, educational materials fees, other maintenance fees)		
Meal fees		Not eligible
Travel expenses and uniform costs, etc.		

\*Other fees are payable to households receiving public financial support, single-parent households with annual income of less than ¥3.6 million, people not subject to inhabitants tax, and for the third child onwards from households with an income-based residence tax levy of ¥256,300 or less.

## **People Who Use Extended-hours Childcare at Kindergartens or Certified Centers for Early Childhood Education (Education Certified)**

People who “require childcare” and make use of extended-hours childcare outside of school hours are eligible for free early childhood education and childcare. In order to receive free early childhood education and childcare benefits, you must receive (2) approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc., (page 2) from the City.

### **[1. Usage Fees]**

Usage fees are waived up to the value of ¥450 per day for all children who are 3 to 5 years old and require childcare (up to ¥11,300 per month (¥16,300 for children who have not yet reached March 31 subsequent to reaching 3 years of age for households not subject to inhabitants tax)). If extended-hours childcare is of an insufficient standard (extended-hours childcare on weekdays is less than 8 hours including school hours or there are fewer than 200 days of operation per year (including extended holidays and regular days off)), concurrent use of a non-authorized childcare facility is also eligible. Snack fees, etc., shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously. Usage fees paid to a facility will be refunded subsequently by the City upon application up to the limit of free childhood education and childcare.

### **[2. Approval of Benefits]**

In order to be eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits, you must receive a new approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc., (new approval 2 or 3).

### **[3. Requirement for Childcare]**

“Childcare required” means parents or guardians find it difficult to care for children at their home for reasons such as work or illness, and it is recognized that childcare is required at the facility. Please refer to page 3 for reasons and specific circumstances childcare may be required.

## **People Who Use Non-authorized Childcare Facilities, etc.**

People who require childcare and use a non-authorized childcare facility, a temporary childcare business, a childcare business for sick children, or a family support center business, etc. are eligible for free early childhood education and childcare. In order to receive free early childhood education and childcare benefits, you must receive (2) approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc., (page 2) from the City.

### **[1. Usage Fees]**

Usage fees are waived up to the value of ¥37,000 per month for all children who are 3 to 5 years old (¥42,000 for children who have not yet reached March 31 subsequent to reaching 3 years of age for households not subject to inhabitants tax). Children who attend kindergartens, authorized childcare centers, or certified centers for early childhood education, etc., are not eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits. Non-authorized childcare centers are limited to facilities that have been confirmed as facilities that are eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits by the relevant local government. Please contact the facility used for details. Event fees, etc., shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously. Usage fees paid to a facility will be refunded subsequently by the City upon application up to the limit of free childhood education and childcare.

## [2. Approval of Benefits]

In order to be eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits, you must receive a new (2) approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc., (new approval 2 or 3). If you have already applied to an authorized childcare center, etc., and are on a waiting list, you have already received (1) approval of education and childcare benefits so it is deemed that you have approval of benefits for use of facilities, etc. Therefore, there is no need for any further procedures to be eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits.

## [3. Requirement for Childcare]

“Childcare required” means parents or guardians find it difficult to care for children at their home for reasons such as work or illness, and it is recognized that childcare is required at the facility. Please refer to page 3 for reasons and specific circumstances childcare may be required.

### **People Who Use Company-run Childcare Centers**

#### [1. Usage Fees]

General usage is free. Please contact the facility used for details.

Extended-hours childcare fees and event fees, etc., shall be borne by parents or guardians as they were previously.

#### [2. Approval of Benefits]

Submit a “report of use” to the City via the facility.

There is no need for employees who use facilities to complete procedures as their requirement for childcare has already been confirmed by the operator, etc. It may be necessary for local residents who use facilities to receive approval of education and childcare benefits (page 2) from the City. Please contact the facility used for details.

### **People Who Use Child Development Support, etc.**

#### [1. Usage Fees]

Usage fees are waived for all children from the age of 3 (the first April 1 after the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday) up to the start of elementary school. Children who concurrently attend kindergartens, childcare centers, or certified centers for early childhood education, etc., are also eligible for free early childhood education and childcare.

#### [2. Approval of Benefits]

There are no procedures necessary to be eligible for free early childhood education and childcare benefits.

#### [3. Inquiries]

Disability Welfare Division, Health and Welfare Department  
042-590-1185

---

Inquiries: Childcare and Kindergarten Manager, Family, Children, and Youth Division,  
Musashimurayama City

1F, Musashimurayama City Hall, 1-1-1 Honmachi, Musashimurayama-shi

Email: [youho@city.musashimurayama.lg.jp](mailto:youho@city.musashimurayama.lg.jp)

URL: <http://www.city.musashimurayama.lg.jp/kosodate/azukeru/1010359.html>

HP number: 1010359

