

From October, 2019

Usage fees for kindergartens, nursery schools, certified children's centres, etc. will be free for children aged 3 to 5.

* This applies to children from 0 to 2 years old of the household exempt from local resident tax.

Information on free child education and childcare is also posted on the Tsukuba City's website (in Japanese).

▶ <https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/kosodate/oshirase/1007645.html>

Inquiry: Childcare Institutions Management Division,
Children's Services Department 029-883-1111 (switchboard)



Residents using kindergarten, nursery school, and certified child centre etc.

Beneficiaries and fees

The fee for all children aged 3 to 5 using kindergartens, nursery schools, or certified child centres etc. will be free of charge.

- For kindergartens, the monthly limit is 25,700yen.
- The period for free childcare is three years from the first April 1 after the day of the 3rd birthday (while in 3 years old class) to the year before entrance to elementary school. However, for kindergartens, considering the timing when your child can enter kindergarten, you are eligible for free childcare from the day when your child turns 3 years old.
- Fees for pick-up and drop-off, food ingredients, event expenses, etc. will continue to be paid by parents. (Exemption of food-related expenses will be applied to households with more than 3 children and those with the annual income of less than 3.6 million JPY.)
- If you use a kindergarten that does not qualify for the Comprehensive Support System for Children and Child-rearing, an accreditation procedure is required to become a beneficiary for free childcare.

Free childcare for children between 0 and 2 years old are only applied for residents who are exempt from local resident tax.

- In addition, in order to reduce the burden on households with two or more children, with the oldest child using a daycare centre counted as the first child, the second child aged 0 to 2 is applied half price, and free of charge after the third child (continuation of the current system).

Target facilities

In addition to kindergartens, nursery schools and certified children's centres, regional childcare and company-led childcare are also eligible for free childcare.

- Regional childcare refers to licensed small childcare, home childcare, home visit childcare, and in-house childcare.
- In the company-led childcare, the amount shown by the national government as a standard fee will be free of charge. Please check with each facility for details.

Those who use kindergarten's day care

Beneficiaries and fees

In order to be eligible for free childcare, you need to receive “certification of the need for childcare” from the municipality you reside.

- In principle, you need to apply through the kindergarten your child is attending.
- In order to receive “certification of the need for childcare”, there is a requirement for working, etc. (a requirement equivalent to the use of a licensed nursery). Please check the details with your municipality.

In addition to the use of kindergartens, up to 450 yen a day (up to a monthly fee of 11,300 yen depending on the number of days of use) will be free.

People using non-licensed childcare facilities etc.

Beneficiaries and fees

In order to be eligible for free childcare, you need to receive “certification of the need for childcare” from the municipality you reside.

- Those who can not use a nursery, certified children's centre, company-led childcare, etc. are eligible.
- In order to receive “certification of the need for childcare”, there is a requirement for working, etc. (a requirement equivalent to the use of a licensed nursery). Please check the details with your municipality.

Children from 3 to 5 years of age are exempted up to 37,000 yen per month, and children from 0 to 2 years of households exempt of local residence tax are exempted up to 42,000 yen per month.

Target facilities

In addition to non-authorized childcare facilities, temporary daycare, sick childcare, and family support centre are also eligible for free childcare.

- Non-licensed childcare facilities mean general non-licensed childcare facilities, local government's own certified childcare facilities, babysitters, and unlicensed in-house childcare.
- Non-licensed childcare facilities that are eligible for free childcare should apply the municipality, and must meet the standards established by the country. However, even facilities that do not currently meet the standard have a five-year grace period, which is eligible for free childcare. Please check the details with your municipality.

For children who use development support for pre-school children with disabilities, there is no charge for usage from 3 to 5 years old. (Inquiry: Disability Services Division, Public Health and Welfare Department)