

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Family FAQ

(Updated for 2025 – Toronto Licensed Child Care)

What is CWELCC?

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system is a partnership between the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and the City of Toronto. Its goal is to make licensed child care more affordable for families, while keeping programs stable and high-quality.

As of January 1, 2025, the maximum daily fee for eligible age groups in Toronto (infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten) is \$22/day or less. This fee cap applies to all CWELCC-participating programs.

Who is eligible?

Children are eligible for CWELCC reduced fees **until the end of the month they turn six**.

- If your child turns six **between January 1 and June 30**, reduced fees continue **until June 30** of that year.
- If your child turns six **between July 1 and December 31**, reduced fees continue **until the end of their birth month**
TCS CWELCC Funding Requirements

Example:

- A child turns six on **October 12, 2025** → reduced fees apply until **October 31, 2025**.
- A child turns six on **March 5, 2025** → reduced fees apply until **June 30, 2025**.

***This rule applies even if your child is enrolled in a **school-age program** but has not yet turned six.*

Which programs are included?

CWELCC only applies to **licensed child care programs** (centre-based or home child care) that have **opted in and been approved** by the City of Toronto. It does not apply to unlicensed care or most recreation-only programs

How are fees set?

Your family's fee is based on:

- **Provincial rules:** Ontario uses a cost-based funding model. The Province funds operators to cover the actual costs of running high-quality child care (staff, supervision, facilities, operations)
- **Municipal oversight:** The City of Toronto (Toronto Children's Services) administers this funding, approves fees, and ensures the \$22/day cap is followed

This means that while families pay reduced fees, centres are fully funded to stay sustainable.

What is included in the \$22/day fee?

The capped fee includes:

- The daily program fee (care, learning, snacks/meals if provided)
- Any mandatory charges (such as registration)

Programs cannot add hidden or mandatory fees above this cap. Optional extras (like field trips) may still be charged, but families choose whether to participate

What about families receiving a City fee subsidy?

If your family receives a Toronto child care fee subsidy, you still benefit. Your parent contribution is calculated by the City, and CWELCC reduces that amount further so you will not pay more than the \$22/day cap for eligible children.

Does CWELCC apply to part-time care, before/after school, or PA-day programs?

Yes, if your child is under six and the program is licensed and participating. Reduced fees apply to full-time, part-time, before/after school care, PA days, and summer programs

How does CWELCC support program quality and staff?

CWELCC funding also ensures educators are supported:

- **Wage Enhancement Grants (WEG):** up to \$2/hour for eligible staff
- **Workforce compensation:** annual increases and wage “floors” for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs)
- **Minimum wage offsets:** for non-RECE staff in some roles

This helps retain qualified educators and maintain quality programs.

What if my child has special needs?

Families of children with additional needs still benefit from CWELCC reduced fees. Programs also receive Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) funding from the City to provide inclusive care

What about French-language or culturally specific programs?

CWELCC funding applies to licensed French-language, Indigenous-led, and culturally specific programs that participate. The Province requires municipalities to support access to these services wherever possible

Where can I learn more?

- [Ontario Ministry of Education – CWELCC Guidelines \(2025\)](#)
- [City of Toronto Children’s Services – CWELCC Information for Families](#)

Additional Questions?

Please contact Ashley Gayle, Executive Director at director@gledhillchildcare.ca