

# Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

**December 5, 2022**

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Reminder of school bus cancellation notice
- Note to operators on room/centre closures
- Operator directions for fee subsidy attendance
- January 2023 CWELCC rate reductions
- Provincial catch up payments

## Reminder of school bus cancellation notice

- Depending on the available funding, the fee subsidy manager may be able to approve this additional enrolment when the buses have been cancelled due to a snow day. However, due to the nature of the funding, this situation must be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Children that regularly attend before and/or after school and would be enrolled for a full day on professional activity days and school holidays may require full days for snow days. The snow day policy only applies to those children whose school buses have been cancelled. Children who normally walk to and from school are not affected by snow days, and are not eligible for any extended child care coverage.
- The service provider would be eligible to apply for additional coverage for all children impacted by a school closure provided they are able to offer the care required. Additional enrolment may be approved provided the service provider informs the Children's Services Division of the snow day or school closure and identifies the names of the clients' affected. A comment on the billings for any child that attended the full day will help process the full day payment. If the month in which the snow day occurs does not have any scheduled school closures fee subsidy will need a list of children that attended the full day on a snow day prior to billings being completed so we can ensure you have the full day code to choose for each child. Reminders will be posted in the operator portal when a list is required for payment.

## Reminder to operators on room/centre closures

- This is to serve as a reminder that any operators who have a purchase of service agreement are required to notify the Children's Services Division

of any room or centre closures. The Children's Services Division can be notified via telephone or email, however this information is required for billing purposes.

## Operator directions for fee subsidy attendance

- Follow your organizational policies when billing, and remember, you can only charge fee subsidy if you charged your full fee parents the same.
- If you have any questions, please contact your accounting clerk before you submit attendance to OCCMS.

### Strike Days (Nov 4 & 7 only)

- If your program was closed and did not offer care due to the strike, you will enter a non-paid day (N) on your attendance
- If you offered care, follow the School Emergency Closure Policy #7-070, for the two days (applies to these two strike days only):
- If the child attended full day at your program, input non-paid day (N) under B&A code schedule, and input a "P" under the full day (SF or PKF) code.
- If the child did not attend, but you offered care, enter an absent (A) for those who were absent. They will be paid at the enrolled rate (SBA).

### Room or centre closures due to staffing shortages/inability to maintain ratios

- In keeping with current fee subsidy policies, centres will not be reimbursed for rooms/centre closures due to staffing shortages. We recognize that closures have a financial impact on organizations. Should you have concerns that this may cause undue hardship, please contact Julie Gaskin, Early Learning Manager to discuss options at [julie.gaskin@durham.ca](mailto:julie.gaskin@durham.ca).
- Attendances for room/centre closures will be recorded as a non-paid day (N) and you must provide a child comment "room closed" or "centre closed".
- If the provider is open at the start of the day, and then it becomes necessary to remove the children from the providers care, the provider must notify Carrie Butler, Manager of Fee Subsidy at [carrie.butler@durham.ca](mailto:carrie.butler@durham.ca) and provide a list of the children involved within two business days of the closure. Record "P" if child attended then had to leave and payment for children attending on that day would be made at the enrolled rate.

### Busing cancelled due to driver shortages

- If a bus route is cancelled due to driver shortages, we would follow the policy for School Emergency Closure # 7-070 which is like snow day bus cancellations. Fee subsidy would provide payments for a full day of care **only** if the child stayed for a full day.
- If the child attended a full day, insert a non-paid (N) day under the B&A code and insert the attendance under the full day code (e.g., SF or PKF). You must add a comment that identifies the name of the school the child

attends.

**Example: “Bus was cancelled for ABC public school”.**

- If the child did not attend, it would be an absent (A) day under the enrolled rate. (Eg., SBA code).

**PA Day (Nov 18 DDSB)**

- The PA day will follow billing policies as usual.

## January 2023 CWELCC rate reductions

### **CWELCC Rate Reductions**

- Effective January 2023, families who attend licensed centres who have opted into the CWELCC program will see a further daily rate reduction of 37% of the already reduced parent rate.
- For a participating licensee whose fee was \$50 per day in March 2022, implementing the 25% reduction in 2022 would have reduced their daily fee to \$37.50 from April to December. Starting December 31, 2022, the daily fee would be \$23.63.
- Similarly, if an individual wanted to determine the Dec 31, 2022 fee directly from the March 2022 frozen fee, they would need to apply a 52.75% reduction from the March 2022 fee. If the March 2022 fee was \$50, a 52.75% reduction would become a daily fee of \$23.63 (same as above).
- A fee calculator has been uploaded to the operator portal to support operators in determining the new rates.

### **CWELCC Rate Reductions for Fee Subsidy Families**

- Children receiving fee subsidy and who are eligible for CWELCC will have their parent rates further reduced effective January 1, 2023.
- At this time, OCCMS has not been updated to generate reports on this decrease so a manual calculation report will be generated. We understand operators need to know the new parent rate amounts prior to January to ensure accurate billing.
- The fee subsidy team is currently working to get the list of new parent rates to you as soon as possible.
- Lists will be posted on the operator portal beginning the first week of December. The goal is to have all agency lists posted by no later than December 15, 2022.
- We will send parents their parent rate change letters during the month of December. The fee subsidy placement lists on the operator portal will not be updated until the month of January as these changes are linked to OCCMS.

We appreciate your patience. If you have any questions, please reach out to your fee subsidy caseworker.

## Provincial catch up payments

- The Ontario government has created 'Catch Up Payments' for school-aged families. This benefit provides parents \$200 or \$250 per child. This benefit helps with the costs for parents in supporting their children catch up after COVID-19. Parents or guardians can use this funding for things like tutoring services, supplies, and equipment.
- Eligible applicants will receive a one-time payment of:
- \$200 for each student between kindergarten and Grade 12, up to age 18
- \$250 for each student with special education needs between kindergarten and Grade 12, up to age 21
- Families can complete the application on the provincial website [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) by selecting 'apply now'. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. EST