

\$10 a Day Child Care Update

Families - April 2026

The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed a five-year extension to the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*, effective April 1, 2026, which supports \$10 a day child care and the overall early learning and child care system.

Under the original agreement, Saskatchewan made significant progress:

- Saskatchewan has achieved 92 per cent of the targeted early learning and child care spaces set in the original agreement, as of December 31, 2025. This has meant a 146 per cent increase in the number of early learning and child care spaces between April 1, 2021 and the end of 2025.
- There has been a 52 per cent increase in the number of certified early childhood educators (ECEs) and an 84 per cent growth in the number of ECE Level IIIs, who work as leaders in providing developmentally appropriate programs for the children in their care. This growth exceeds the targeted 15 per cent increase committed to in the agreement.
- Average wages for ECEs in all positions increased by 43 per cent from March 2021 to December 2025.

What's New:

- The extension agreement, in place until March 31, 2031, supports the continuation of the \$10 a day child care program.
- A key item for Saskatchewan families is that as of April 1, 2026, children in regulated child care who turn six on or after that date and attending Kindergarten can continue to be eligible for \$10 a day child care for the full school year to the end of June or until they turn seven-years-old, whichever comes first.
- Starting in the 2026-27 school year, all Kindergarten children six years and under in regulated care will be able to access \$10 a day child care for the full school year to the end of June or until they turn seven-years-old, whichever comes first. The \$10 a day coverage for six-year-olds does not extend into July and August.
- Effective July 1, 2026, the standard hours of care that are provided under the \$10 a day child care fees are being established at up to 10 hours a day. Facilities may choose to charge parents for extended hours of care beyond 10 hours per day. Families impacted can expect to enter into an updated agreement for services with the child care facility reflecting this change in fees.
- More information about standard hours of care and other adjustments being made under the extension agreement are available at www.saskatchewan.ca/child-care-updates

How are facilities paid when my child attends child care?

- With \$10 a day child care, families pay their licensed child care provider \$10 per day, or \$217.50 per month. To support this lower parent fees, regulated child care providers receive the monthly Parent Fee Reduction Grant from the Ministry of Education through the agreement to make up the total fees charged by the child care providers.
- The Parent Fee Reduction Grant has been established to reduce child care fees paid by parents, making life more affordable for Saskatchewan families.
- Families with children enrolled 10 days or more per month pay a child care fee of \$217.50 per month. Families with children enrolled fewer than 10 days per month pay a child care fee of \$10 per day.

What happens if my family needs more than the 10 hours of care per day?

- Facilities are not required to change their hours of operation.
- If your child requires more than 10 hours of care a day, speak to your child care facility about the hours of care required.
- Facilities may choose to establish a fee to provide services beyond 10 hours a day.
- If facilities charge for extended hours of care, the facility is required to provide 60 days' notice of any fee changes. The facility will also enter into a new Child Care Services Agreement with each family stating this fee. There are limits on the extended hours fees that they can collect.
- The ministry has parameters regarding the hourly fee permitted.

Are families eligible for \$10 a day or \$217.50 per month child care fees if their child is enrolled in more than one facility?

- Families can only access \$10 a day child care at one regulated facility at the same time, unless special circumstances exist.

What if my facility is temporarily closed, can my family pay the reduced rate if we find alternate care at another regulated facility?

- If a facility temporarily closes, families can seek alternate care at another facility which may be regulated or unregulated.
- If a parent pays for alternate care, they will bring their receipt to their regular facility and receive reimbursement up to 90 per cent of the facility's daily rate. For children receiving the benefit of \$10 per day, this is \$9 per day. The parent is responsible for the difference in fees. There is more information in [Section 7](#) and [Section 62](#) of the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#).
- As the regulated facility providing alternate care to a family's primary facility, the care provider will confirm with the family that they are enrolled at another facility and charge them the full, unadjusted fee.

My children's child care facility has raised concerns about financial viability. How is financial sustainability being addressed?

- The Ministry of Education remains committed to supporting a sustainable, affordable child care system.
- Since 2023, the ministry has increased funding to support affordable child care by providing additional support to lower-fee facilities, raising all regulated fee schedules by over 11 per cent and providing \$22 million in one-time grants in 2024 to offset inflationary pressures.
- On July 1, 2026, the ministry will increase the fees of child care facilities with the lowest fees (bottom 20 per cent). This increase will reduce the variance of the fees charged at different facilities in the province.
- The parent portion will continue to be \$217.50 per month or \$10 per day and families are not impacted by the July 2026 facility fee increase, which is an increase to the amount that government provides the facility.

For Additional Information:

Phone: 1-855-824-9419

Email: childcare@gov.sk.ca

Website: saskatchewan.ca