

TITLE: FEE SUBSIDY- PARENT ON ONTARIO WORKS / ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM	SECTION: CHILD CARE SERVICES
DATE: February 15, 2007	POLICY NO.: KDSB-CCS-IV-20
APPROVED BY: Resolution No. 2007-19	REVISED: Resolution No. 2009-37

PURPOSE

To outline the process to be followed should a parent be an Ontario Works client and requiring child care.

POLICY

Full time child care subsidy is available for Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support Program clients under Ontario Works Formal and under Day Nursery Act Fee Subsidy. When the client is engaged in employment activities which have been entered on his/her participation agreement, the fee subsidy will be charged against the OW formal child care account. If the child is attending the child care centre because the child has identified needs, referral from a third party or for socialization reasons, the fee subsidy will be charged against the regular DNA fee subsidy.

PROCEDURE

1. Social assistance recipients are eligible for full subsidy without being subject to the income test. This includes: a person eligible for income support under the Ontario disability Program Act, 1997, a person eligible for an allowance under the Family Benefits Act and a person eligible for income assistance under the Ontario Works Act, 1997 who is employed or participating in employment assistance activities under the Act or both.
2. To be eligible for Ontario Works child care, parents must be participating in recognized activities. When providing fee subsidies or Ontario works child care, KDSB should take into account a family's reasons for needing child care in order to determine the amount of child care to subsidize.
3. Consideration should be given to both the recognized needs of the parent and the recognized needs of the child when determining whether funding for full-day or part-day child care is appropriate. As a general rule, funding for full-day child care should only be provided where the family's collective needs require it.
4. If the child has a special or social need, the amount of subsidized child care provided should be based primarily on what is in the child's best interests. The amount of subsidized child care should be based on the parent's recognized needs, although even then, the best interests of the child should always be considered in order to help support the child's early learning and avoid undue disruption for the child.
5. The following is a list of reasons for needing child care that are to be considered by the KDSB when determining the amount of child care for which to provide Ontario Works child care funding.

Parents' recognized needs

No parent in a household is able to care for his/her children due to participation in employment assistance activities under the OWA, as documented in the parent's participation agreement and travel associated with those activities.

6. Ontario Works child care funding is not the only mechanism through which Ontario Works participants may receive assistance with their child care costs. They may also have access to child care fee subsidies. If an Ontario Works participant wishes to access a child care fee subsidy, his/her needs should be considered in accordance with the recognized needs set out in the fee subsidy section of the guidelines (for the needs of the child).

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7. If an Ontario Works client is participating in employment assistance activities and requires child care for other reasons as well (e.g. a child in social need), KDSB will provide funding through the child care fee subsidy to support both the child's needs and the parent's needs.

8. With respect to the three day absent policy of the KDSB, the following will apply to Ontario Works clients. When the child care centre becomes aware that the child has missed three days care in the current month, the centre will contact the local Ontario Works office by email and copy the KDSB Administrative Support Clerk. The caseworker will attempt to contact the client and will respond to the child care centre, within two days, regarding whether the child will be returning to the centre or whether the file will be terminated. It will be at the discretion of the OW caseworker whether to allow additional sick/vacation/absent days for a particular client. The OW office will advise the child care centre of this decision in writing and will copy the Administrative Support Clerk.