



After-school Child Care Scheme

What is the after-school child (ASCC) care scheme?

The ASCC scheme provides supports to low-income and unemployed people to take up a job (including JobPlus); increase their days of employment; or take up a place on a Department of Social Protection (DSP) Employment Programme.

The scheme provides subsidised after-school child care places, with the option of a pick-up service, for certain DSP customers, who have children of primary school age.

If you meet the criteria and are offered a place on this scheme, you can get after-school child care for up to 5 days per week at a daily rate of €3 per day per child, for example €15 per week per child.

The scheme provides full-day childcare during school holidays at no additional cost to the parent. However, in order to avail of childcare during the school holidays you must have an on-going after-school childcare need during the school year.

Am I eligible for this scheme?

You may be eligible for the scheme if:

- you are in receipt of Family Income Supplement (FIS) (regardless of duration);
- or**
- you are currently getting a Jobseeker's Benefit (JB), Jobseeker's Allowance (JA), Jobseeker's Transitional payment (JST) or One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) or are on a DSP employment programme;
- and**

- you have been in receipt of a JB, JA, JST or OFP payment or have been on a DSP employment programme (or any combination of the 4) for at least 3 months; **and**
- you have one or more children aged between 4 and 13 who are in primary school; **and**
- you either:
 - start a new job; or
 - increase your employment; or
 - start a DSP employment programme (except CE*).

Note

***CE is excluded from eligibility for ASCC as the CE Childcare (CEC) Programme provides subsidised childcare for all CE participants with children from 0 to 13 years of age. Please contact your CE sponsor for information. When you complete your CE placement, if you meet the eligibility criteria for the ASCC scheme, you can apply as outlined below.**

Please contact your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Office for a full list of eligible employment programmes which includes JobBridge and the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance scheme.

Note

Self-employed people who are getting Jobseeker's Allowance and customers signing for credits only, are not eligible for the after-school child care scheme.

How are places allocated?

Places are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. However, eligibility does not guarantee a place.

- Log on to www.welfare.ie.
- Telephone: (071) 919 3302
LoCall: 1890 66 22 44
If you are calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call + 353 71 91 93302.
- Drop in to your local Citizens Information Centre, your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office.

How long does the allocated place last?

If you are allocated one or more after-school child care place(s), your entitlement will last for 52 weeks once your circumstances do not change.

If your circumstances change, you must contact your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Office.

This may affect your continued entitlement, if,

- you lose your job, **or**
- you reduce your employment; **or**
- you leave your employment programme; **or**
- your child is no longer of primary school age.

Note

The After-school Childcare Scheme is a one-time support for 52 weeks and it cannot be used by a parent as a support a second time. However, once you are eligible, you can chose when you wish to avail of this support, for example while you are on an employment programme, when taking up employment or a combination of both.

Please see examples below.

Example 1:

Mary starts a new job in June 2014 and has one child (age 6) in primary school. Her child care place will last for 52 weeks (until June 2015) from the date she starts work, as long as she stays in employment and her child stays in school.

Example 2:

John starts an employment programme in June 2014 and has two children (aged 8 and 13) in primary school. His older child finishes primary school in July 2014. His child care place for his younger child will

last for 52 weeks (until June 2015), as long as he stays on the scheme and the child stays in school. His place for his older child will end in July 2014.

Example 3:

Anne starts a JobBridge placement for 6 months in June 2014 and has two children (age 5 and 7) in primary school. Anne uses 26 weeks of her 52 weeks available on the ASCC scheme and returns to a Jobseeker's payment in December 2014 when the JobBridge placement ends. Her access to the ASCC scheme also ends. Anne then finds employment in January 2015 and meets the criteria for the ASCC scheme. Anne has 26 weeks remaining on the ASCC scheme. Her place for both children will end in July 2015.

If I meet these conditions how do I apply?

If you want to apply for a subsidised after-school child care place, you should contact your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office. They will explain how the application process works and give you the relevant forms.

If you are then eligible for the scheme they will provide you with an eligibility letter and refer you to the relevant County Childcare Committee who will arrange your childcare place(s).

I did not know about this scheme before: can I apply now?

You can apply for subsidised after-school child care up to 26 weeks after you started your new job, took up additional employment or started your employment programme and your late application will be accepted.

Note

The rates charged for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.

This leaflet is intended as a guide only and is not a legal interpretation.