



How School Readiness Payments Work

1. After passing through our School Readiness waitlist and proving eligibility, a payment certificate is sent to the Childcare Provider that the family selects.
2. The payment certificate includes the following key information: Care Authorization End Date, eligible child name, maximum reimbursement rate for the child age, and family parent fee.
3. The Childcare Provider will submit attendance for payment from the Early Learning Coalition.
4. The Childcare Provider will collect parent fees and any additional costs not covered by the Early Learning Coalition from the enrolled family.
5. The Coalition cannot pay for care past the eligibility end date without your submission of required documentation. For that reason, you must renew childcare services when notified.

ELC of Southwest Florida
Non-transferable Child Care Certificate
School Readiness (SR)/SR Plus Program

Certificate Number:
HouseholdID:

* This certificate is not valid for care arranged after: _____

Sometimes the School Readiness Program does not cover the full cost of the selected Childcare Provider (An Example)

The Childcare’s Usual Weekly Price	<u>\$100</u>
The Maximum Reimbursement Rate x 5 days = Coalition Maximum Payment	<u>\$80</u>
Amount Not Covered by the Coalition	<u>\$20</u>

If the Early Learning Coalition does not cover the full cost of your selected Childcare Provider, you may be asked to cover that additional childcare cost.

How School Readiness Payments Work: FAQ

When your childcare provider signs a contract with the Early Learning Coalition, they are advised what the maximum reimbursement rate is for all contracted age groups. The maximum reimbursement rate is set by the Department of Early Learning. Maximum reimbursement rates change depending on the age of the child and the type of childcare provider they are. Childcare providers receive payment based on attendance policies – if a child does not attend the location, the School Readiness program can only pay for specific absences.

- ❖ The Early Learning Coalition does not set the maximum reimbursement rate, but we do advocate for a reimbursement rate that represents actual childcare costs in our community.
- ❖ The maximum reimbursement rate may not match what your selected childcare provider usually charges for childcare.
 - If your selected childcare location charges less than the maximum reimbursement rate, they only can be paid what they would normally charge any other household (we pay the lower amount).
 - If your selected childcare location charges more than the maximum reimbursement rate, there may be additional costs that our program cannot cover at the location.

Your childcare provider may pass this cost on to your household.

What is a parent fee?

The Early Learning Coalition uses your household income to set your parent fee. This parent fee is unique to your family because it is based on your reported gross household income, your household size and your submitted documentation. The parent fee is your portion or responsibility out of the maximum reimbursement rate.

- ❖ Your childcare provider will collect your parent fees (the frequency is set by the childcare provider – ex: weekly, biweekly or monthly)
- ❖ Your parent fee will be tied to the youngest child using childcare services on your account and paid to that childcare provider.
- ❖ You should maintain current parent fee payments.

Proof of payment in full is required to transfer children to a new childcare facility.

What happens if they charge me more than the parent fee?



Communicate with your childcare provider to ask for a pricing breakdown. It is possible that they are charging you the difference between the maximum reimbursement rate and their regular private pay rates. They may be charging you fees for late pick-ups or supplies, which our program does not cover.