



## Session rules for before school care and after school care

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It is a condition of approval and continued approval for Child Care Benefit (CCB) purposes that services must comply with Family Assistance Law.

The rules for sessions of before school care and after school care are governed by and detailed in the statutory rules, *Child Care Benefit (Session of Care) Determination 2000*.

A service that does not comply with these rules may be sanctioned under Family Assistance Law.

**Note:** Session rules for before school care and after school care apply to attendance reported for school children on days where they've attended school. These rules apply to all child care services that provide before and after school care, including Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), Long Day Care (LDC), and Family Day Care (FDC).

### Sessions of before school care

#### **Standard session of before school care**

A standard session is the minimum period for which an approved child care service charges a fee for providing before school care in the 'standard period'. The standard period for before school care is the period of two hours ending immediately before school starts. Therefore, a standard session of before school care must not exceed two hours.

If the before school care session at the service is less than two hours, the maximum session of care reported must be the same as the opening hours.

**Example 1:** Where an LDC service opens at 7.30am and school starts at 9.00am the standard session is one and a half hours, rather than two hours.

#### **Additional session of before school care**

If a child attends a standard session exceeding one hour and on the same day the service provides an additional period of care for the child, either before or after the standard period of before school care, each session of care during the additional period must not exceed half an hour.

**Note:** A child must attend a standard session of before school care exceeding one hour before an additional period can be reported.

**Example 2:** A child attends FDC from 6.45am and falls ill and is collected by their parent at 7.30am, an additional session of before school care cannot be reported as the child has been in care for less than one hour of a standard session (which in this case is 7.00am to 9.00am).

## Sessions of after school care

### **Standard session of after school care**

A standard session is the minimum period for which an approved child care service charges a fee for providing after school care in the 'standard period'. The standard period for after school care is the period of three and a half hours starting immediately after school finishes. Therefore, a standard session of after school care must not exceed three and a half hours.

If the after school care session at the service is less than three and a half hours, the maximum session of care reported must be the same as the opening hours.

**Example 3:** An OSHC service offers an after school care program from 3.00pm to 6.00pm, the service can only report a standard session of three hours, not three and a half.

### **Additional session of after school care**

If a child attends a standard session exceeding one hour and on the same day the service provides an additional period of care for the child, either before or after the standard period of after school care, each session of care during the additional period must not exceed half an hour.

**Note:** A child must attend a standard session of after school care exceeding one hour before an additional period can be reported.

**Example 4:** A parent may book their child into after school care from 3.00pm to 7.30pm. This means that the service may report attendance for a standard session limited to three and a half hours which finishes at 6.30pm and then report sessions for the two additional half hour sessions of care provided – one which finishes at 7.00pm and the second which finishes at 7.30pm.

**Example 5:** A child attends FDC from 6.30am and the carer escorts the child to school, which begins at 9.00am. The carer also collects the child after school finishes at 3.00pm and cares for the child until 6.30pm. The sessions that should be reported include a standard session of before school care along with one additional session of before school care, and a standard session of after school care for the afternoon care.

## Non-school days/ Non attendance at school

Where a service provides care for a child who does not attend school on a particular day, for example, a pupil free day, the LDC, FDC, or OSHC service that offers a full day of care may report attendance for a longer session for that day, that is, the standard sessions of two and three and a half hours do not apply.