



## 2021 - 2022 FAMILY DAY CARE FEE SCHEDULE (effective 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021)

Northern Rivers Family Day Care is a flexible service providing childcare across a range of hours and days, including nights and weekends, at numerous sites across the Northern Rivers. We endeavour to meet each family's specific childcare needs by offering a variety of FDC service options.

### PARENT SERVICE LEVY:

**\$1.52 per hour/child**

Parents pay this Levy specifically for services provided to Educators which improve the quality of childcare (such as professional development and frequent home visits). The Levy is included in the service fee, and is collected by the Educator.

### STANDARD FEE FOR CHILDREN NOT AT SCHOOL:

**\$11.40 p/h (incl. \$1.52 Parent Service Levy)**

Standard hours are from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Mon - Fri.

### STANDARD FEE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN: (min booking 1 hour)

**\$9.02 p/h (incl. \$1.52 Parent Service Levy)**

### NON STANDARD FEE FOR ALL CHILDREN:

**\$12.02 p/h (incl. \$1.52 Parent Service Levy)**

Care before 8.00 am and after 6.00 pm Mon-Fri, and any time on weekends and public holidays.

### CASUAL FEES FOR ALL CHILDREN:

**Ask your Educator**

Casual fees are for non regular bookings. They are usually available for parents to have a night out or to attend social functions on weekends. They must be during non-standard hours. Parents who require regular non-standard hours care, or have a standard hours booking but require extra time before or after their booking cannot be charged a casual fee. For example, if a parent has an after work hours meeting and needs a couple of extra hours, they will not be charged a casual fee. They will be charged a non-standard hours fee if the care is in non-standard hours.

Educators are under no obligation to provide casual bookings. Therefore they may set a fee considerably higher than regular fees to compensate them for the fact that there will usually only be one or two children in care. Educators may set different fees for one, two or three children. Casual fees still attract CCS if a child has not already used all their weekly subsidy entitlement. This can mean the full fee will be more than halved! Children in casual care are covered by the same insurance and regulations as standard care. If your educator offers casual bookings, please discuss the rates and take advantage of the opportunity to have a night out. If you have any questions you wish to discuss with a staff member, please do not hesitate to call our office numbers.

Prior notification (12 hours) of cancellation of a casual booking does not incur a childcare fee, however a cancellation fee equivalent to four hours or half of the agreed fee (whichever is less) will apply to casual bookings that have been cancelled less than 12 hours before starting time.

### BOOKED HOURS:

**8 hours minimum per day**

The minimum daily session is 8 hours for children not at school. In some instances only a longer session may be available (maximum session is 10 hours). Parents may accept a longer daily session (9-10 hours), or request a shorter session (subject to availability). Parents are entitled to use all the hours of their daily booking. Fees will not be charged for any hours that are not available for use by the child.

### PAYMENT OF FEES:

The parent fee (after CCS deductions) must be paid in full at the end of each week in order for your child to attend childcare the following week. Parents may choose to pay their fee in cash, or via electronic funds transfer (EFT). Parents who are having difficulty paying fees on time will be required to enter into a direct debit agreement.

A two week notice period is required for termination of a childcare agreement (with the exception of the first week of care). Fees will be charged in lieu of this notice period. If a child attends some or all of this notice period, and is not absent on the last day, then CCS will be available. However, any last day absence(s) from a permanent booking (after which the child never returns to care) do not receive CCS, and are therefore charged at the full fee rate.

### SECURITY DEPOSIT:

A security deposit is required for each child at the time of enrolment prior to childcare commencing. This deposit will be used to cover any outstanding fees at the conclusion of the child's enrolment, with the balance returned.



#### ABSENCES:

CCS is paid for up to 42 absences in each financial year, including public holidays. CCS may be payable for an additional 20 days for exceptional circumstances such as illness or parenting orders/court orders (evidence required). We may fill an absence with a casual placement.

Fees are charged for absences as long as the childcare was available for use. Changes to or termination of care contracts require 14 days notice, unless mutually agreed to (except during an initial settling in period of two weeks). We will endeavour to provide 28 days notice if a place becomes unavailable for any unexpected reason.

**TRAVEL:** \$7.50 per round trip of 5 Kilometres or less for each family  
\$15.00 per round trip of 10 Kilometres or less for each family  
\$7.50 for each additional unit of up to 5 Kilometres

#### MEALS:

**Snacks \$3**

**Lunch \$4**

**Dinner \$5**

Meals are charged as a dollar value on Attendance Records. Educators may negotiate meal costs depending on the meal provided, and the needs of the child concerned. All meals (including snacks) must however provide a balanced nutritional content and include a drink and fruit. Dinners are expected to be nutritious cooked meals. These charges will be included in the total weekly fee to which CCS is applied.

#### LATE / EARLY FEES:

Children who arrive or are collected outside standard hours without prior agreement may be charged an early/late fee of \$7.50 per 15 minutes. Parents who regularly arrive earlier or later than their booked hours will be required to increase their permanent booked hours by the minimum 1 hour, and pay for the new booking regardless of use.

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Most of our FDC services do not operate on Public Holidays. Standard childcare fees are charged for permanent bookings which fall on a public holiday. However, to do this the FDC service must have been available immediately before & after the holiday (i.e. the Educator did not take leave on the normal working days before and after the public holiday). FDC services who provide care on a public holiday will charge a non-standard rate only to those children who attend. Most FDC services will close from Christmas Day to New Year's Day. Fees will only be charged for children who physically attend care during this period. Non-standard rates may be charged during this time for those who attend.

#### MAXIMUM CCS SUBSIDISED HOURS:

There are a maximum number of hours per week that a parent can receive Child Care Subsidy for non-working parents can only claim CCS for up to 24 hours per fortnight. Parents who satisfy the 'Activity Test' (including students) can receive CCS for up to 100 hours p/f in Family Day Care.

#### CCS FEE CALCULATIONS:

Parents pay the full cost of care less their CCS entitlement (see below).

CCS for care is calculated as \$11.40 (OR hourly fee, whichever is lowest) x CCS % (less 5%) x hours used.

Out of pocket fees will depend on your CCS percentage (means tested) and eligible subsidised hours (based on families recognised activities). Inquiries relating to CCS eligibility should be directed to the Department of Human Services.

**Parents are advised to apply for CCS as a weekly payment prior to enrolling to ensure they receive their benefits from the commencement of care.**

**Childcare fee estimations can be complex. Please contact the office for assistance.**