**Helping with the cost of early childhood education**

**Newsletter**

Attending a quality early childhood program helps set children up for later success at school. Through play-based programs, young children develop their creativity and imagination, social and communication skills, develop self-confidence and make new friends.

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) is providing carers with financial assistance to help meet the cost of early childhood education and care.

This new payment is in addition to support payments provided by DCCSDS to meet child related costs and does not place a cap on the level of support that carers can receive to meet the cost of early childhood education and care.

From 1 July 2017, foster and kinship carers will receive a minimum gap cost payment of at least $40 per week ($2000 per year) for each child attending an approved early childhood education program.

Foster and kinship carers who are caring for children from 1–5 years old, are encouraged to talk to their Child Safety Officers about eligibility for the new early childhood education gap cost payments.

For more information about the initiative and eligibility criteria, go to the Queensland Government’s [Community Support web page](https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/index.html) for foster and kinship carers.

**Facebook**

Foster and kinship carers who are caring for children aged 1–5 years old can receive financial assistance to help cover early childhood education and care costs. For more information about the new gap cost payment and eligibility, go to the Queensland Government’s [Community Support web page](https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/index.html) for foster and kinship carers.

**Twitter**

DCCSDS is offering new payments to help foster and kinship carers cover early childhood education costs for children aged 1–5 years old.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care-financial-support/index.html>

**Supporting image**

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