

2026
Fiscal Year

(April 2026 –
March 2027)

“Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” as Required for Early Education and Childcare Fee Exemption Benefits

How to Apply for Certification to Receive Fee Exemption Benefits



1. Those Eligible for “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification”

(1) Using a Traditional *Yochien** with Fee Exemption Benefits

All households with children between 3 (includes children turning 3 during the school year) and 5 years of age (class age) are eligible. If, in addition to the above, you wish to receive fee reduction benefits for after-hours childcare (*azukari hoiku*)*¹, you must have an applicable reason for requiring childcare (refer to chart below). For children who turn 3 within the school year, this is limited to tax exempt households, etc. (see page 3).

* *Yochien*: This refers to all *Yochien* (preschools/kindergartens) other than Accredited *Kodomoen* and *Yochien* which have adopted the new Child & Childcare Support System that started in 2015.

(2) Using Accredited *Kodomoen* or *Yochien* (Type 1 Certification)* and After-hours Childcare with Fee Exemption Benefits

Households with children between 3 (including children turning 3 during the school year) to 5 years of age (class age) who have a “reason for requiring childcare”¹ are eligible. (For children turning 3 during the school year, only tax-exempt households, etc. are eligible. For more information, see “About Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” on page 3.)

* Accredited *Kodomoen* (Type 1 Certification), etc.: This refers to Accredited *Kodomoen* (Type 1 Authorization), and *Yochien* which have adopted the new system.

(3) Using Unaccredited Childcare Facilities, etc.*² with Fee Exemption Benefits

① Households with children between 0 to 2 years of age (class age), that are exempt from residence tax, etc. and have a “reason for requiring childcare”.

*Even households that are not exempt from resident tax can receive a grant of up to 19000 JPY per month for their second child onwards. This is an original system enacted by the City of Shizuoka. Scan the QR Code for more information. (Facilities eligible for this grant differ from the “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification”). Application is required to receive this grant.



② Households with children between 3 to 5 years of age (class age) who have a “reason for requiring childcare”.

* 1 For children who turn 3 during the year, eligibility is limited to households exempt from municipal resident tax and similar cases. For details, please refer to page 3, “About Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification”

* 2 Unaccredited Childcare Facilities, etc.: This refers to **Unaccredited Childcare Facilities**³, Short-term Childcare Services, Childcare Services for Children with Illnesses, and Family Support Centers.

* **3 Caution:**

(i) Children using employer-sponsored childcare facilities (employee slots or community slots) are not eligible for the “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification”.

(ii) From October 2024 onwards, Unaccredited Childcare Facilities that do not meet guidance and supervision standards will cease to be eligible for fee exemption benefits. Scan the QR Code for the current list of facilities eligible for fee exemption benefits.



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Reasons for requiring childcare

Reason		Parent's Circumstances	Certification period
1	Employment	Parent is working (over 60 hours per month).	For the duration of employment *1
2	Pregnancy/Delivery	Child's mother is pregnant or has given birth recently.	From the first day of the month 2 months (4 months for a multiple pregnancy) prior to the due date, to the last day of the month 8 weeks after delivery.
3	Illness/Disability	Parent has an illness, injury, or physical/mental disability that requires rest and recuperation.	Until recovery from illness, etc.
4	Nursing/Caring for Relative	Parent is nursing/caring for a relative (over 60 hours per month).	Until the need for nursing/care ceases
5	Post-Disaster Recovery	Parent is engaging in recovery efforts after a natural disaster such as an earthquake, fire, windstorm, or flood.	Until recovery efforts are complete
6	Job Seeking	Parent is in the process of job seeking or starting a business.	Approx. 3 months (until the end of the month in which the 90 th day falls) *2
7	Studying/Vocational Training	Parent is going to school or receiving vocational training (over 60 hours per month).	Duration of Studies/Vocational Training *3
8	Prevention of Abuse /Domestic Violence	When necessary in order to prevent the occurrence of child abuse/domestic violence	Duration deemed necessary

One of the above reasons must apply to each of the child's parents.

*1 When returning to work after childcare leave, certification will be given from the month in which the parent returns to work.

*2 Please submit an employment certificate within approx. 3 months of receiving certification. If, in order to keep job searching, you wish to enroll your child for longer, you will need to reapply for certification. However, if results of your job-seeking efforts during the previous certification period, or prospects of finding a job in the future cannot be confirmed, certification cannot be reissued.

*3 If you are not sure whether you are eligible for certification due to Studying/Vocational Training, please contact the Childcare Support Division at one of the ward offices.

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2. About “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” (For Shizuoka City Residents)

There are different types of certification depending on your child's age, household circumstances, and the facility you wish to use.

Type of Facility	Class age	Childcare Required	Certification Type	Fees to be Waived*4
Traditional Yochien	Children turning 3 during the school year *1	Yes	New Type 3*2	Childcare fees (up to ¥25,700 per month*5) After-hours childcare fees (up to ¥16,300 per month*6)
		No	New Type 1	Childcare fees (up to ¥25,700 per month*5)
	3-5 year old class	Yes	New Type 2	Childcare fees (up to ¥25,700 per month*5) After-hours childcare fees (up to ¥11,300 per month*6)
		No	New Type 1	Childcare fees (up to ¥25,700 per month*5)
Accredited Kodomoen, Yochien (Type 1 Certification)	Child turning 3 during the school year *1	Yes	Type 1*3 + New Type 3*2	Childcare fees (whole amount) After-hours childcare fees (up to ¥16,300 per month*6)
		No	Type 1*3	Childcare fees (whole amount)
	3-5 year old class	Yes	Type 1*3 + New Type 2	Childcare fees (whole amount) After-hours childcare fees (up to ¥11,300 per month*6)
		No	Type 1*3	Childcare fees (whole amount)
Unaccredited Childcare Facility, etc.	0-2 year old class	Yes	New Type 3*2	Usage fees*7 (up to ¥42,000 per month)
		No	—	—
	3-5 year old class	Yes	New Type 2	Usage fees*7 (up to ¥37,000 per month)
		No	—	—

*1 This refers to children who have yet to pass March 31st after turning 3.

*2 **Only residence tax exempt households, households receiving welfare payments, and foster parent households are eligible for New Type 3 Certification.**

*3 Type 1 Education/Childcare Benefits Certification (*kyoiku/hoiku kyufu nintei*) is required in order to use an Accredited Kodomoen (Type 1 Certification), etc.

*4 Childcare fees refers to the fixed monthly fees paid to your childcare facility, excluding lunch fees, educational material costs, etc. For children attending Yochien, Accredited Kodomoen, etc. from households with an annual income of under ¥3.6 million and the 3rd and subsequent children from all households (restrictions exist on how siblings are counted) fees for supplementary food expenses (side dishes, etc.) will be reduced.

*5 The upper limit for National University Affiliated Yochien is ¥8,700 per month.

*6 The daily limit is ¥450 (the smaller of “¥450 times no. of days of after-hours childcare used in a month” and the actual after-hours childcare fees will be exempted up to the monthly limit).

*7 Fees paid to the facility each month excluding amounts for expenses such as lunch fees, learning material expenses, etc.

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3. How to Receive “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification”

*For enrolment procedures, follow the instructions of your chosen facility.

(1) Using Traditional *Yochien*

- ① Pick up a “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” Application Form from the *Yochien* at which you have been tentatively accepted.
- ② Fill in the necessary information and submit the application form to the *Yochien* by the date instructed.
*If you want to receive fee exemption benefits for after-hours childcare you also need to submit documents supporting your “reasons for requiring childcare” (see page 5).
- ③ After your application has been assessed, you will receive a notification of the results.

(2) Using Accredited *Kodomoen* or *Yochien* (Type 1 Certification) with Fee Exemption Benefits for After-hours Childcare

- ① Pick up a “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” Application Form from the Accredited *Kodomoen* at which you have been tentatively accepted.
- ② Fill in the necessary information and submit the application form and the documents supporting your “reasons for requiring childcare” to the Accredited *Kodomoen*.
- ③ After your application has been assessed, you will receive a notification of the results.

(3) Using Unaccredited Childcare Facilities, etc.

- ① Pick up an “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” Application Form from the Childcare Support Division, Enrollment Section (*Nyu en kakari*) counter at your Ward Office.
- ② Fill in the necessary information and submit the application form and the documents supporting your “reasons for requiring childcare” to the Childcare Support Division, Enrollment Section (*Nyu en kakari*) counter at your Ward Office.
- ③ After your application has been assessed, you will receive a notification of the results.

Caution

If your application for “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” is made after you are scheduled to start using the *Yochien*, etc. (after the date from which you wish to receive fee exemption benefits), you will not be able to receive fee exemption benefits for use that occurred before the date of your application. Please complete your application before you are scheduled to start using the childcare facility.

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4. Documents Required for Application

Please submit the following documents. (Documents are available at each facility and at the Childcare Support Division of each Ward Office. Those who wish to use unaccredited childcare facilities, etc. must please pick up the necessary documents at the Childcare Support Division, Enrollment Section counter of your Ward Office.)

(1) Documents required by all applicants

Required Documents	Notes
"Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification" Application Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refer to the chart on page 3 and choose the Certification Type that applies. • One form per child

(2) Documents required by those who wish to use traditional *Yochien*, unaccredited childcare facilities, etc.

Required Documents	Notes
My Number Declaration Form	<p>Those who wish to use <i>Yochien</i> must put their My Number Declaration Form in a designated envelope and submit it to the <i>Yochien</i>.</p> <p>Those who wish to use an unaccredited childcare facility do not need a dedicated envelope.</p> <p>*Applicants from outside of Shizuoka City should submit the My Number Declaration Form after moving to Shizuoka City.</p>

(3) Documents required by those who wish to use After-hours Childcare, Unaccredited Childcare Facilities, etc. (New Type 2 or New Type 3 Certification)

Required Documents	Notes
Documents supporting your "reason for requiring childcare"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application must be submitted by a parent or guardian of the child. • When applying for more than one child at the same time, attach a copy of the documents to the younger child's application.

	Reason	Required Documents	
		Declaration and Pledge Form (City Format)	
4. Documents supporting "reason for requiring childcare"	• Employment	Not Required	Employment Certificate (City Format) ^{*1}
	• Pregnancy/Delivery	Required	Copy of Maternal and Child Health Handbook (cover page and page showing the due date)
	• Illness/Disability	Required	Doctor's Certificate ^{*2} . (filling in the diagnosis on the Personal Statement is acceptable)
	• Nursing/Caring for Relative	Required	Nursing Care Insurance Card (showing level of nursing care), copy of care plan, or Doctor's Certificate ^{*2} .
	• Post-Disaster Recovery	Not Required	Disaster Victim Certificate
	• Job Seeking	Required	In principle, a copy of the Hello Work registration certificate, etc.
	• Studying/Vocational Training	Required	Documents indicating period of enrollment and lecture times such as a Certificate of Enrollment, timetable, etc.

^{*1} Please submit an "Employment Certificate" that was issued within 3 months of the application date. This certificate has changed to the national standardized format for the 2024 fiscal year onwards.

^{*2} Please submit a Doctor's Certificate that was issued within 3 months of the application date. Not required for those with a disability certificate, etc.

5. Regarding Applying from Outside of Shizuoka City or to Facilities Outside of Shizuoka City

Those living outside of Shizuoka City who will not complete the procedure for moving into the City before receiving certification and starting to use *Yochien*, etc. as well as those living within Shizuoka City but who wish to apply to a facility outside the City, and will not complete the procedure for moving out of the City by the time they begin using the facility, should follow the procedures below.

(1) Non-residents of Shizuoka City wishing to use a *Yochien*, etc. within the City

Where to submit documents	Your current municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the submission procedures with your current municipality in advance. • Check the enrolment procedures separately with your chosen facility.
Deadline	Check with your current municipality.	
Necessary Documents	Check with your current municipality.	
Precautions	If you will move to Shizuoka City before you start to use the facility, please apply for “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” through the City of Shizuoka as soon as you have finished the procedure for moving into the City.	

(2) Shizuoka City residents wishing to use a *Yochien*, etc. outside of the City

The “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” for Shizuoka City residents who wish to use *Yochien*, etc. outside of the City will be granted by the City of Shizuoka.

Where to submit documents	The Childcare Support Division, Enrollment Section of your Ward Office in Shizuoka City.
Deadline	The day before you wish to start using your chosen childcare facility
Necessary Documents	See “Documents Required for Application” on page 5

6. If Details in your Application for “Certification” Change after Submission.

If any of the details in your application for “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” change after submission, you need to submit a “Change of Details Form”.

Please make sure to notify your chosen childcare facility or the Childcare Support Division of your Ward Office if changes occur.

(Examples)

- Changes to the “reason for requiring childcare” (e.g. from Job Seeking to Employment; from Employment to Pregnancy/Delivery; from Nursing/Caring for Relative to Employment; etc.)
- You wish to change the Certification Type (e.g. New Type 1 to New Type 2)
- Changes in the home situation of the child (marriage, divorce, birth of sibling, etc.)
- Changes to workplace, working hours, working conditions, etc.

*In accordance with amendments to the Childcare and Caregiver Leave Act, the Post-Birth Paternity Leave System and Split Acquisition Childcare Leave System have been established. Scan for the QR code for details on how the establishment of these systems affects certification.



7. Inquiries About “Child-Raising Facility Use Benefits Certification” Applications

● Aoi Welfare Office Childcare Support Division (Aoi Ward Office 2F)

〒420-8602 5-1 Ote-machi, Aoi-ku TEL : 054-221-1095 • FAX : 054-221-1097

● Suruga Welfare Office Childcare Support Division (Suruga Ward Office 2F)

〒422-8550 10-40 Minami Yahata-cho, Suruga-ku TEL : 054-287-8673 • FAX : 054-287-8805

● Shimizu Welfare Office Childcare Support Division (Shimizu Ward Office 3F)

〒424-8701 6-8 Asahi-cho, Shimizu-ku TEL : 054-354-2358 • FAX : 054-354-3132