

Special Needs Child Care Tips



For Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC), Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 5101:2-16 defines children with special needs as those not functioning according to age-appropriate expectations in one or more of the following: social/emotional, cognitive, communication, perceptual-motor, physical or behavioral development, or having a chronic health issue. This requires modifications to facilities, programs or related services on a regular basis for the child to function in the child care setting. Children with special needs may continue to receive PFCC until they are 18.

Special Needs Payment Requested by Caretaker

- Providers caring for children with special needs may be eligible for an additional 5% payment rate if the child's caretaker makes a request through the county department of job and family services.
- The additional 5% cannot exceed the provider's customary charge to the public.

EXAMPLE

Customary Rate	PFCC Rate	Lowest Rate x 5%	Add the 5%	Payment
\$100	\$147	$\$100 \times 5\% = \5	$\$100 + \$5 = \$105$	$\$105 > \$100 = \$100$
\$160	\$147	$\$147 \times 5\% = \7.35	$\$147 + \$7.35 = \$154.35$	$\$154.35 < \$160 = \$154.35$

Special Needs Payment Requested by Provider

- If providers have ongoing additional costs to care for children with special needs, they may submit a JFS 01231, "Request for Payment Rate for Special Needs Child Care," to ODJFS to request twice the amount of the payment rate, per OAC 5101:2-16-41.
- If ODJFS approves, the provider will not receive the additional 5% payment explained above.

EXAMPLE

PFCC Rate x 2	Payment
$\$147 \times 2 = \294	\$294

- The child must have special needs, as defined by OAC Chapter 5101:2-16.
- The child must have a current authorization to the provider.
- Special accommodations must be made for the child. These may include, but are not limited to, hiring additional staff, lowering ratios or modifying the facility.

Approvals for the ODJFS-approved payment rate are valid only for the provider that submitted the request and only if the child is attending the approved provider and remains eligible for PFCC. Approvals are valid for 12 months.