

# Special Needs Child Care Tips



Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5104.01 defines special needs child care as care provided to a child who either has one or more chronic health conditions or does not meet age-appropriate expectations in one or more areas of development, including social, emotional, cognitive, communicative, perceptual, motor, physical, and behavioral development. Special needs child care may include, on a regular basis, services, adaptations, modifications, and/or adjustments to assist in a child's functioning or development. Children in special needs child care may continue to receive publicly funded child care (PFCC) until they are 18.

## Special Needs Payment Requested by Caretaker

- Providers 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 and is determined eligible for special needs child care.
- 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 provide special needs child care, 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 5101:2-16-10.
- If ODJFS approves, the provider will not receive the additional 5% payment explained above or any other payment enhancements.

### EXAMPLE

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

- The child must meet the requirements for special needs child care in ORC Section 5104.01.
- 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 or lowering ratios.

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's program and remains eligible for PFCC. Approvals are valid for 12 months.