



Criteria for granting a preschool place

An early childhood education place is applied for electronically or with a form that is submitted to the early childhood education administration.

Early childhood education places are organized taking into account the application periods specified in the Early Childhood Education Act (540/2018, § 17).

If the need for early childhood education is due to the guardian's employment, studies, training, or moving to another municipality for work or studies, and the start date of the need cannot be anticipated, a place in early childhood education must be applied for at least two weeks in advance. In other cases, the application must be submitted at least 4 months in advance.

The early childhood education place is assigned primarily according to the wishes of the guardians, if possible. The guardian presents 1-3 wishes for the early childhood education unit in the application. The goal is to place the child in one of these three units chosen by the guardian. In the search for early childhood education places, there is no queue principle, but all applications are processed according to the start time of the need.

In the allocation of early childhood education places, the aim is to implement the principle of local services. If no free place can be found in the early childhood education units corresponding to the application preferences, the early childhood education place will be assigned from the unit closest to the child's home where a free place is available. There are no restrictions regarding which address a child can be placed in a specific early childhood education unit.

Only those children whose need for early childhood education, due to their guardians' work or studies, falls outside the hours of 6:00 AM–5:30 PM will be placed in the shift care unit. This must be verified with a valid (one year) shift work certificate.

If there are more applicants for a preschool unit than available places at the same starting time for the need for early childhood education, the following factors will be taken into account;

- known individual children's special needs as well as support for development and learning
- siblings of the same family are aimed to be placed in the same unit
- the distance to the early childhood education unit and the family's ability to transport the child / functioning public transport connections
- the formation of functional child groups and the appropriate use of places

In the middle of the operating season, a decision about the early childhood education place is aimed to be made at the latest one month before the



need for early childhood education begins (excluding urgent applications with a processing time of 2 weeks). Decisions on applications concerning June and September are aimed to be made by the end of May at the latest (excluding urgent applications with a processing time of 2 weeks).

If the family does not accept the early childhood education place granted to the child, the guardian must inform about it as soon as possible and no later than within a week of receiving the information. In this case, the guardian must fill out a new application for the child if necessary.

Customers applying for a change of early childhood education place are subject to the same criteria for granting an early childhood education place as new applicants. Transfer applications are generally considered from the beginning of the new operating period (from August 1), not during the operating period.

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More information

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