



FINAL

NSW Department of Education Start Strong Fee Relief for Community Preschools Initiative

Dear Parents:

In the 2026 school year, the NSW Government is again providing fee relief, with a slight increase of \$2.73 from last year, to families through the 'Start Strong Fee Relief for Community Preschools' initiative as part of the Early Years Commitment.

Families with children who are at least 3 years old on or before 31 July 2026 and who are enrolled in an eligible community or mobile preschool service **may** save up to \$4,456 per year for the 41-weeks in the 2026 school year . This equates to \$108.68 per week reduction in weekly fees.

Below we have provided a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section pertaining to the NSW Fee Relief initiative to assist families in their decision making process.

How the Fee Relief works:

- The funding for your child's fee relief will be provided to our service, directly from the NSW Government, and we will pass this fee relief on to you as a reduction to our normal fees and levies.
- The fee relief will be evenly allocated to you across the calendar year.
- If your child will be attending another service that offers fee relief (another community preschool or a long day care service), **you will need to choose which service you would like to receive fee relief from**, as you can **only receive fee relief from one (1) service**. You will need to fill out declaration and consent forms at each service your child attends.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. How much NSW Fee Relief will my child receive?

Families with children who are at least 3 years old on or before 31 July 2026 and who are enrolled in an eligible community or mobile preschool service **may** save up to \$4,456 per year in 2026. On a per week basis, this equates to \$108.68 per week off your term fees.

2. Can I use both the NSW Fee Relief and Child Care Subsidy (CCS) at Pottsville Community Preschool?

No, you cannot.

NSW Fee Relief and Child Care Subsidy (CCS) are two different initiatives with different criterias. The NSW Fee Relief is not related to the CCS. CCS only applies to services/centres that receive Federal Funding (e.g. long day care centres or family daycare). Our community Preschool is state funded and therefore we are not eligible for CCS. We do not submit attendances to Centrelink, and we do not have any connection to Centrelink.

3. Can I use both the NSW Fee Relief and Child Care Subsidy (CCS) at different services?

Yes, you can.

If your child attends both Pottsville Community Preschool, and another service such as a long day care centre or family daycare, you can have access to both Fee Relief and Child Care Subsidy (CCS) allowing you to use them at different services. For example, you can use the Fee Relief at our service, Pottsville Community Preschool, and use CCS at your child's long day care centre or family daycare. Similarly, children at long day care centres are eligible for **both** Fee Relief and CCS, so if warranted, parents can elect to have both the Fee Relief **AND** CCS at the long day care, and none at Pottsville Community Preschool.

4. If my child attends Pottsville Community Preschool, and another service/centre, which service will be most cost effective for my family?

The best way to determine this is to look at the daily fees charged at each service, then calculate your 'out of pocket' weekly fees to determine which option is the best for your family's financial circumstances. Pottsville Community Preschool has provided you with your weekly "out of pocket" costs in the attached *2026 Fee and Levy Schedule*.

5. Do I need to pay levies on top of the published fees as outlined in Pottsville Community Preschool's 2026 Fee and Levy Schedule?

No, the calculations provided in the *2026 Fee and Levy Schedule* include the daily fees and term levies minus the fee relief funding if applicable and are presented as a weekly out of pocket fee for families.

6. How do I know which service to allocate my NSW Fee Relief to?

This can only be answered by you taking into consideration your financial circumstances as it relates to your childcare needs.

7. If I choose to allocate the NSW Fee Relief to Pottsville Community Preschool, what fees will I pay in 2026?

Pottsville Preschool
selected for funding

Equity

	Weekly Fees Payable (Including daily fees and levies)
2 Days Preschool Or Nature Explorers Equity Fees	\$0/week
3 Days (Preschool & Nature Explorers Wednesday or Masterclass) Equity Fees	\$21.80/week

Pottsville Preschool
selected for funding

Non-Equity

	Weekly Fees Payable (Including daily fees and levies)
2 Days Preschool Or Nature Explorers Non-Equity Fees	\$20.40/week
3 Days (Preschool & Nature Explorers Wednesday or Masterclass) Non-Equity Fees	\$65.40/week

8. If I do **NOT** choose to allocate the NSW Fee Relief to Pottsville Community Preschool, what fees will I pay in 2026?

Another service provider
selected for funding
Full fees and levies apply

Equity

	Weekly Fees Payable (Including daily fees and levies)
2 Days Preschool Or Nature Explorers Equity Fees	\$85.48/week
3 Days (Preschool & Nature Explorers Wednesday or Masterclass) Equity Fees	\$130.48/week

Another service provider
selected for funding
Full fees and levies apply

Non-Equity

	Weekly Fees Payable (Including daily fees and levies)
2 Days Preschool Or Nature Explorers Non-Equity Fees	\$129.08/week
3 Days (Preschool & Nature Explorers Wednesday or Masterclass) Non-Equity Fees	\$174.08/week

Per the above, "Equity" means:

- Families who have provided us with a current **Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink.**
- Families with an enrolled child who identifies as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.**
- Children with **an eligible diagnosed disability.**

9. Can I switch which service I allocate the NSW Fee Relief to mid-term or mid-year?

Yes, you can.

You will have to submit an updated Declaration Form to both Pottsville Community Preschool and the other service your child attends.

Please note; however, that the Fee Relief can only be applied to your invoices from the date you provide Pottsville Community Preschool with a new form.

10. Does the NSW Fee Relief apply to School Development Days?

Yes, it does.

School Development Days are non-attending children days which families pay for, and as a result, the Fee Relief is also applied to these days.

11. Why do I HAVE to complete the Declaration Form at both services/centres if my child attends multiple services?

Each centre/service needs written confirmation from you, the parent, regarding which service/centre you want to allocate or not allocate your Fee Relief to. Each service/centre has to follow protocols and submit completed forms to the NSW Department of Education for compliance purposes. Even if you are NOT allocating the NSW Fee Relief to Preschool Community Preschool, we still need a completed form indicating this. It's important that you complete the declaration and consent forms so that we know whether our service should apply fee relief funding to your child's 2026 Term invoices.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please let us know.

Kind regards,

Admin Team

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