

Frequently asked questions

Call us if you require further information or clarification on any of the following FAQ's.

Q. I am a single mum on a benefit. Will my earnings as an educator affect the amount I receive?

A. Practically all of you earnings as an educator are tax free. You only have to declare 25% of your income to WINZ. Therefore your benefit is likely to remain unchanged.

Q. Am I able to have some say in the child I accept for care?

A. Yes. When we have a child requiring care in your area we ask you whether you would like to be interviewed by the parent for their child's care.

Q. My backyard is fenced but my front yard isn't. Will I still meet the requirements?

A. Yes, as long as you have a fenced area large enough for children to run and play.

Q. Who supplies the nappies and food each day for the children?

A. The parents.

Q. Who supplies the cot, highchair and pushchair for the care children?

A. We supply you with all this equipment. The parents supply you with a car seat.

Q. How much tax do I have to pay?

A. Because you are working from home, the taxable component of your income is minimal. It generally works out at around 2c (yes two cents) for every dollar you earn over \$16,000 as opposed to 20c for every dollar you would earn in another job. We can help you work out how much you need to put aside each week for tax. For example, an educator who earned \$29,000 before tax only paid \$600 tax for the whole year and has a year to pay it to the IRD. Other examples are an educator who earned \$22,000 paid \$89 for the whole year, an educator who earned \$16,000 paid no tax at all.

Q. Do the parents pay me directly?

A. No, we charge the parents and collect the fees. We pay you weekly regardless of whether the parents are up to date with their fees or not.

Q. Who supplies the toys?

A. It is your responsibility to provide books and toys but if you have none of these can be purchased second hand from op shops, garage sales, etc at minimal cost. We will contribute to your art supplies e.g. paints, paper, glue, chalk, crayons etc.

Q. Who pays for entry fees to early childhood programmes in our community such as play centre, play groups, mini gym, music sessions, the zoo etc?

A. We do. You can claim reimbursement for any programmes you take your care children to. We encourage you to use these programmes in your community as they compliment Homebased care very well.

Q. I have a dog. Do I have to keep it tied up while children are in care?

A. No, but you must have an area which is separate from the children to keep your dog. Supervised interaction between pets and children is encouraged. Dogs must be healthy and faeces removed from play areas.

Q. If I have any concerns about the children in my care and I don't know how to approach the subject tactfully with the parents what do I do?

A. Your Co-ordinator is your support person and is only too happy to help with all aspects of your care.

Q. What written work would I be required to do?

A. Every child has a learning journal in which you can put samples of their artwork, share stories about some of the interesting moments spent in your home and for photographs. Under two year olds also have a daily notebook in which you record sleeps and nappy changes.

Q. Do I have to do my training before I start as an educator?

A. No, we will enrol you in the course after you become an educator.

Q. Why have you sent me two police checks?

A. We require a police check for each member of your household aged over 17 years. If you require only one police check discard the other, or if you require more you can photocopy one or ask us to send you another.

Q. I have two primary school aged children and one preschooler of my own. How many children will I be allowed to care for?

A. In this example you will be allowed a maximum of three other preschool children. You can have as many children aged over six years as you wish. If you have no preschoolers then you are allowed up to four preschool children.

Q. Do Sprouts provide care for school aged children?

A. No, we are an early childhood service.

Q. Where do I phone if I need more information or assistance to fill out my forms?

A. Free call 0800 SPROUTS (0800 777 688)