

Number of Children (aged 12 and below)	Days of CCL Per Year	
	Per Working Parent	Both Working Parents Combined
1 child	8 days	16 days
2 children	10 days	20 days
3 or more children	12 days (capped)	24 days (capped)

New Childcare Leave Scheme Singapore 2026: How To Actually Plan Around It

Description

The new childcare leave scheme Singapore 2026 has been the one part of National Day Rally that parents keep asking about, and fair enough. Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced on 23 August 2026 that the current Childcare Leave (CCL) and Extended Childcare Leave (ECL) schemes will merge into a single, more generous CCL scheme for working parents with children aged 12 and below. The catch is that MOE and MSF have not yet confirmed when it starts, so this is a “know the numbers now, plan later” situation.

We already covered the wider [National Day Rally 2026 family package](#) in a separate roundup, including the \$62,000 SG Child Support Package and BTO changes. This piece goes deeper on the leave changes specifically, because “more childcare leave” means very different things depending on how many kids you have.

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Source: Made For Families, gov.sg

What Changes Under The New Childcare Leave Scheme Singapore 2026

Right now, how much childcare leave you get depends on your youngest child's age. A parent whose youngest Singapore Citizen child is 6 or below gets 6 days of CCL a year. A parent whose youngest is aged 7 to 12 gets only 2 days of ECL. The new scheme scraps that age cliff and ties your leave to how many children you have instead.

- **One Singapore Citizen child:** 8 days of CCL a year per working parent.
- **Two Singapore Citizen children:** 10 days of CCL a year per working parent.
- **Three or more Singapore Citizen children:** 12 days of CCL a year per working parent.

Run the numbers for a couple with three kids and the difference is stark. Under today's rules, if their youngest is 7 or older, each parent gets just 2 days of ECL, for a combined 4 days a year as a household. Under the new scheme, each parent gets 12 days, for a combined 24 days. That is six times more protected time to handle a sick child, a school event or a last-minute childcare gap.

Who Pays For It, And Why That Matters To Your Boss

This is the detail that gets buried in most coverage, but it is arguably the most useful one if you are worried about how your manager will react to a bigger leave entitlement. The Government has committed to covering the cost of all child-related leave, covering Government-Paid Maternity Leave, Government-Paid Adoption Leave, Government-Paid Paternity Leave, Shared Parental Leave and

CCL, for all birth orders, up to the reimbursement limit.

In plain terms, your employer is not left absorbing the extra cost of the leave itself. That matters because it removes one of the more common informal objections managers raise when staff want to use their full leave entitlement. Self-employed persons are covered too, and can claim compensation for income lost during the Government-paid portion of these schemes, the same way they can today.

Why There Is No Start Date Yet

MOE has been upfront that implementation details, including the actual start date, will be announced later. This is not unusual for a scheme this size. The Baby Bonus and Large Families schemes were similarly restructured into the new SG Child Support Package with a rollout timeline still being firmed up, and the reduced preschool fees under the same announcement will not reach target levels until 2030.

These enhancements are also just the first batch of recommendations from the Marriage & Parenthood Reset Workgroup, which is continuing its engagements and expects to publish a fuller report in early 2027. Kiasu parents will want to keep an eye on that report too, since further leave or subsidy tweaks could follow.

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Helping Singaporeans Start Raise Families with Confidence



Enhanced childcare leave, financial support for preschool and housing support
Announced at National Day Rally 2022

MORE CHILDCARE LEAVE

Number of Children aged 12 years and below		CCL Days Per Working Parent Per Year	CCL Bonus Days Per Year
	1 child	8 days	16
	2 children	10 days	20
	3 or more children	12 days	24

This is an increase from 6 days (youngest child aged 0–6) and 2 days (youngest child aged 7–12).

All child-related leave will be fully paid for by the Government going forward.



Source: Made For Families, gov.sg

How This Fits Into The Bigger SG Child Support Package

The leave changes are one piece of a larger package. Every Singapore Citizen child now qualifies for up to \$62,000 in direct cash, credits and grants from birth to age 17, on top of existing support like the Medisave Grant for Newborns and Edusave contributions. We broke down the preschool fee cuts separately in our piece on [preschool subsidies from January 2027](#), which is worth reading alongside this if your children are still in the childcare and infant care years.

Large families with three or more children keep additional support on top of all this, including the existing \$5,000 Large Family MediSave Grant, with the Government studying how to extend it to families that have not yet claimed it. MOT is also working on transport support and MND on housing support specifically for large families, though neither has firm details yet.

	SG Child Support Package			
	Baby Gift	Child Credits	Child Development Account (CDA)	
			First Step Grant (FSG)	Government Co-matching
All birth orders	\$10,000	\$32,000	\$5,000	Up to \$5,000
Duration of support	Disbursed in two tranches – at birth and before child turns 1	\$2,000/year from year when the child turns 1 up to year when child turns 16	Disbursed at birth	Co-matching available from birth to the end of the year the child turns 16

Source: Made For Families, gov.sg

What To Do While You Wait For The Start Date

There is genuinely nothing to apply for yet, since the new CCL scheme has not launched. But a few things are worth doing now rather than later.

1. Keep using your current CCL or ECL entitlement as normal. Nothing about today's rules changes until the new scheme is confirmed.
2. If you are planning parental leave or a career break around this transition, loop in your HR team early so they can flag any internal leave policy updates once MOM issues implementation guidance.
3. Bookmark the [Government-Paid Leave Portal](#) so you catch the announcement the moment a start date is confirmed.
4. If you have three or more children, watch for updates to the Large Family MediSave Grant separately, since that repositioning is being studied on its own track.

For a family with two working parents and school-going kids, this alone could mean the difference between scrambling for last-minute leave and actually being present for a PSLE oral exam or a pre-schooler's first day. Once MOM confirms the start date, we will update this piece with the exact numbers to key into your HR system.

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Author

nuraisyah