

**Childcare Employment and Training Support (CETS) scheme**  
**Questions and Answers from the OMCYA: June 2010**

**Q. Can a VEC/FAS Trainee contact the Provider directly for a place on the Scheme?**

The VEC / FAS trainee will be given a letter by FAS / VEC confirming their entitlement and also a list of participating services locally. The person then contacts the service to book a place.

**Q. Are services that offer SAC only able to enter the scheme (these will not be in the ECCE or CCS Scheme)?**

Yes, private School Age Childcare stand-alone services can apply.

**Q. Will the capitation be paid for the number of agreed places irrespective of whether they are filled or not?**

The capitation will be paid for the number of contracted places, whether they are filled or not.

It is important to remember that, for now, providers are just being asked to register their interest in the scheme and to indicate the number of places they expect to have available for it.

It is very likely that the CETS scheme will be over-subscribed by providers .i.e. services will offer far more places than we need. In July, we will have a better idea from FAS/VEC of how many places they will need and where, and then we will start telling providers how many CETS places we will need from them. In some cases, we will need none or fewer than they indicated. Once contracts are in place, we will only pay for the number we specified we need.

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**Q: Can providers charge extra?**

Yes, for optional additional hours provided and agreed with Parents.

**Q: Is the CETS scheme just for VEC and FAS trainees?**

Yes

**Q. I have VEC and FAS trainees currently on ECCE or CCSS. Should/Can I apply to the CETS instead?**

Yes. If you wish to offer full-time, half-time or after school places but not if you only offer sessional places.

**Q Am I taking on the parents as staff / do I need to train them ?**

No, it is for children of parents on VEC / FAS Schemes

**Q Can I specify the age range of the children? I wish to apply for as it is too awkward to apply for 3 babies, 4 toddlers 3 afterschool kids etc as it is too difficult to plan re costs. (Ratios also become an issue)**

You can, if you wish, specify what you are prepared to offer in terms of age-range by writing it in on the form.

**Q. On Application form Q.2, is Maximum number of places available referring to the service in total or just CETS Scheme places?**

The number of CETS places.

**Q. How will the places be allocated? Can services apply for as many places as they wish?**

In theory, yes they can. But they should be realistic about how many places they have to spare, if any, and they should remember that no matter how many places they apply for, they are not guaranteed they will get any places at all under the scheme.

**Q. When will payments start being made?**

From late August.

**Q. Can a service apply for both the 25 and 26 week model and if so why are they split?**

In the terms and conditions, it states:

“The capitation fee will be paid for an agreed number of weeks within the September to August Term. This will vary between 43 and 51 weeks depending on the particular FAS/VEC Childcare Service provision which is agreed with the participating service provider in each case. Where a period of 51 weeks is contracted, a set number and type of places will be

contracted for 25 weeks during September 2010 to February 2011, and for 26 weeks during March 2011 to August 2011..”

A service contracted to provided CETS places for 51 weeks may be offered a number of places or type of places for the second half of this period that is different to what they will be offered in the first half of this period.

**Q. Can Childminders Apply?**

Childminders cannot apply.

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**Q. Should ECCE participating services turn away ECCE children to hold places for CETS?**

ECCE places are either sessional or part of a daycare place. Only daycare or after-school places will be considered for offer under CETS.

If a service is contracted to hold a place for a CETS child, they cannot give that place to an ECCE child.

**Q. Can unfilled ECCE places be used for the CETS scheme?**

If the service has been contracted by us to provide a CETS place, then they hold that place for us.

**Q. I have a concern about the level of fees. Are we allowed to charge extra for food or school pick-up, for example ?**

Half day and full day services have a regulatory obligation to provide nourishment. The capitation fee includes the provision of food / snacks at no additional cost to the parent.

School pick-up is an optional extra. You can charge for that.

**Q. In the case of After-Schoolers, we are limited in the number of schools we can pick up from; also the number of children in each school & pick-up time. Alternatively, is it assumed that participants will organise their own school transport ?**

You do not have to be able to provide transport in order to apply for the scheme.

**Q. No distinction is made between the various age groups, i.e. Babies (under 12 months), Toddlers & Montessori. If we offered say 3 places, there would be a big negative impact if we got 3 Babies. Could we refuse to do this?**

We do not have a complete snapshot of what FAS / VEC requirements will be in each area yet. We will work with FAS, VEC and providers to meet the needs of the CETS children as best we can. However, the capitation fee is a flat fee.

**Q. If a child is on site for more than 5 hours, provider is required to provide food – Can provider charge for food?**

No, a service cannot charge for food.

**Q. Can provider charge for drop or collection of a child attending primary school?**

Yes.

**Q. Child starting under ECCE in September. Parent starting FAS course in September. Can parent avail of CETS from 8am – 1.30pm and ECCE from 1.30pm – 4.30pm?**

Much depends on the circumstances. If a qualifying parent is on a 10 week FAS course, they will get 10 weeks of CETS and then they can get ECCE for the other weeks if their child is the eligible age. But if a qualifying parent is on a September to June course, they will get their ECCE place within their CETS place.

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**Q. I have been asked by a Childminder can they apply for the CETS? or is it only open to people currently on schemes.**

Childminders will not be eligible to apply.

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**Q. Can a private after school service that is part of a full day care service apply, or is it just after school services receiving CCS? Can a stand alone after school service receiving CCS apply?**

Yes, private services providing SAC can apply. Stand-alone SAC services receiving CCS can also apply.

**Q. If a service reserves a place under the CETS for September and then that place does not get filled, are they paid. ( This space would normally be offered to a fee paying child)**

We will pay them if we have contracted them to hold a place.

**Q. If a child does not attend and is booked, does the service get paid?**

Yes, we will pay.

**Q. How many weeks of the year are they paid for? Is it just for the duration of the course e.g.25 weeks etc**

The will be paid for 43 weeks under the 43 week model.

Under the 51 wk model, they will be paid for a set number of places for the first 25 weeks, and a (possibly different) set number of places for the following 26 weeks.

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**Q. There is some confusion with our providers around the amount of hours they need to be open to qualify for the new CETS scheme. Can you please clarify both the minimum and maximum opening hours for full-day, half-time and after-school hours?**

The definition of full-day and half-time for the CETS scheme is different form the Regulations because we have to take account of the needs of FAS / VEC parents. For CETS, the minimum opening hours are:

- Full-day : at least 10 hours per day to include 8 am to 6 pm.
- Half-time: at least 5½ hours per day to include 8 am to 1.30 pm.  
AfterSchool: at least 3 hours per day to include 2 pm to 5 pm.

There are no maximum opening hours.

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**Q. Can parents who are participating on the CE scheme apply?**

CE participants will not qualify for CETS places. Eligibility is decided by FAS & VEC.

**Q. Who applies to the service? FAS/VEC or parent? If the parent applies is there a parent declaration form procedure as with the ECCE/CCS etc?**

The qualifying parent will be given a list of participating services (by FAS or VEC) and they then contact the service. There will be no parental declaration form.

**Q. Are the services paid for the number of places available or the number of places availed of?**

The number we have contracted them to set aside.

**Q. Can a service whose usual opening hours are 9.00 to 5.30 join the scheme with the agreement that if there is a requirement for course participants to access childcare earlier they will open at 8.00 am?**

Yes, once they can fulfil the terms and conditions. The applicant should specify that on their form if they have not yet sent it in.

**Q. What about voluntary notified childminders and other notified childminders who provide childcare from early in the morning to late in the evenings usually?**

Childminders will not be able to participate.

**Q. If a service joins the scheme and holds the places will they be paid by you even if the places are not taken up?**

Yes, if they have been so contracted.

**Q. When FAS and VEC trainees access childcare through the scheme can they revert to CCS once the training period is over?**

In certain cases, yes. Most VEC students will have a CETS place for the Sept/June period and will not be eligible for CCS until the following September,  
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**Q. What is or are there a maximum number of places a service can reserve?**

There is no maximum. But services are not really reserving CETS places. They are offering to reserve places, and we will inform them in July how many we will actually need.

**Q. If the reserved places are not taken up does the service still get paid?**

Yes, provided they are reserved / contracted by the OMCYA.

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**Q. I've had a query from a provider regarding the new scheme. If the provider reserves a number of places for parents under the CETS scheme and a parent doesn't avail of one of the places at the last minute, will the provider still receive payment for that place?**

The service will be paid.