

REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
Purchase of Service Policy #3405.1
Date Revised: 10/2010
CHILD CARE SERVICES
Birth – 13

PHILOSOPHY

Working parents of young children face many challenges as they strive to balance competing priorities and responsibilities. Such challenges may include securing childcare for children not yet old enough to attend school or after-school care for school age children under the age of 13 whose age requires supervision at the conclusion of the school day. Securing child care with trained and reliable care givers, a safe environment, stimulating activities, peer groups for social interaction, and convenience for the home/work/home commute is a goal for many families, including families with a child who has disabilities.

A family arranging childcare for their son or daughter with disabilities may be met with additional challenges related to their child's specialized care needs.

SERVICE DEFINITION

Childcare is defined as care and supervision for children with developmental disabilities who have specialized care needs and whose parent/parents/care givers are engaged in employment "outside of the home" Welf. & Inst. Code 4686.5, subd.(a)(4), education leading to employment or vocational training that can only occur beyond the child's regular school session.

Educational or therapeutic services shall not be purchased under this policy.

BOARD POLICY

When the specialized care needs of a child with disabilities require a specialized child care arrangement, Regional Center of the East Bay may pay the cost of the child care service that exceeds the cost of providing child care services to a child without disabilities. [Welf. & Inst. code 4685, subd. (c)(6)]. Childcare may be purchased when:

The child's need for care and supervision is beyond that provided to a non-disabled individual of the same age;

and

Childcare is not available to the family through the regular resources found in communities at a usual cost to the family (such as day care centers, schools, church programs, YMCA, Boys/Girls Clubs, city/county recreation programs, etc.)

and

The parent of a single parent household or both parents of a two parent household are engaged in employment "outside of the home" [Welf. & Inst. Code 4686.5, subd.(a)(4)], education leading to employment or vocational training which can only occur beyond the child's school day; and providing the childcare will support the continuation of employment/training.

PROCEDURES

The Regional Center of the East Bay may assist families with the purchase of childcare when all of the following are complete:

A. Child/family needs assessment

The ID Team identifies that the child's needs for care and supervision are above that of a non-disabled peer and verifies that the parent of a single parent household or both parents of a two parent household are engaged in employment "outside of the home"[Welf. & Inst. Code 4686.5, subd.(a)(4)], education leading to employment or vocational training which occurs beyond the child's school day.

B. Natural Support & generic resources

All resources which may be available the family/child for the purpose of care and supervision (local after school programs, community child care centers, YMCA, etc.) have been fully explored and utilized to the fullest extent.

C. Child Care/Day Care Worksheet

The family completes the Childcare/Day Care Worksheet to identify hours of care and supervision required. Typically a parent with a young child works a maximum of 40 hours per week. Requests for childcare when a work schedule, not including commute time, is in excess of 40 hours per week should be considered an exception.

D. IPP/IFSP planning process

The ID team identifies the childcare option and verifies the specialized care cost component. This is done through a comparison of like services provided to a non disabled peer. (*The California Child Care Resource and Referral Network determines the ceiling child care rates based on the results of a statewide survey by county of 13,500 child care providers. These rates are utilized by CalWORKS & the CA Dept of ED.*), The volume of childcare required is based on the ChildCare/Day Care Worksheet.

To the maximum extent possible, childcare will be provided in settings in which the child is able to be included and participate in age appropriate activities with non-disabled peers.

Regional Center of the East Bay may purchase an additional portion of childcare that is greater than the portion related to the child's specialized care when a family is able to demonstrate a financial need as an exception to this policy. Financial need is demonstrated through the completion of the RCEB Family Financial Statement. Family financial information will only be requested when RCEB is asked to purchase part of the childcare, which is the responsibility of the family.

AUTHORITY

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4685, subd. (c) (6) and 4512 (b) and 4686, subd.(a)(4)