

Voluntary work and the Child Care Subsidy activity test

This is for	Families
It is about	Voluntary work and the activity test

Does voluntary work counts toward the activity test?

Yes, under the activity test, voluntary work is a recognised activity. If volunteering is your only activity, you must volunteer for at least 8 hours a fortnight to be entitled to 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight (the first step of the activity test). If you volunteer for more than 16 hours a fortnight, only the first 16 hours of volunteering is counted to be entitled to 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight.

You can combine voluntary work (unlimited hours per fortnight) with other types of activity (for example, work or study) to increase your overall activity and increase the number of subsidised hours of care you are entitled to.

What counts as voluntary work?

For voluntary work to count as a recognised activity, one or more of the following must apply:

- it is voluntary work which improves your work skills or employment prospects (or both); or
- it is voluntary work for a charitable, welfare or community organisation; or
- it is voluntary work for a school, preschool or centre based day care service, but only if the work directly supports the learning and development of the children there.

To make it easier, here is a table with some examples.

Recognised activities	Not recognised activities
Coaching children as part of a school or community sporting team.	Watching and supporting your child at sporting events.
Volunteering in the school canteen or tuckshop.	Attending a school play or assembly.
Being a member or office-holder (for example, President or Treasurer) of the Parents and Citizens Committee for the local school.	Attending a Parents and Citizens Committee meeting (not as a member).
Reading to children in the classroom.	Assisting with supervision of children on school excursions, fetes, sports carnivals etc.

How do I prove that I am volunteering?

You do not need to provide evidence when you declare your activity to Centrelink. However, you might be asked to show evidence at some point in time so it is important that you have and keep a copy of your paperwork. This could include a letter from the organisation where you volunteer.

Where can I get further information on the child care package?

- Visit the Department of Education and Training Child Care Package website at education.gov.au/eccc
- Visit the Department of Human Services Child Care Subsidy website humanservices.gov.au/childcaresubsidy