

MSF 132-007-103A-221 / EZ / E / 060921

6 September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Circular 02/2021 on Approved Use of Child Development Account (CDA) for Payment of Virtual Field Trips

This circular informs you that virtual field trips for children enrolled at your centre can now be paid for using the Child Development Account (CDA) under the category of “local excursions/field trips” in Appendix 1 of the Approved Person / Approved Institution Terms and Conditions (“AP/AI T&Cs”). This change is effective from 2 September 2021.

2 We have consulted the relevant agencies that in a post-pandemic new normal, besides fully in-person learning experiences, hybrid and virtual learning experiences provide an alternative for children to learn beyond the classroom. Allowing centres to tap on the CDA for virtual field trips will thus give centres greater flexibility in planning a varied experience for every child. Nevertheless, in-person learning experiences offer authentic and rich sensorial experiences to support children’s learning and are beneficial for children’s holistic development, including their physical well-being. Hence, centres are encouraged to prioritise in-person experiential learning opportunities over virtual field trips, where possible.

3 We would also like to remind you that APs/AIs are required to thoroughly review and abide by the AP/AI T&Cs, which may be amended from time to time. Please access the AP/AI T&Cs via the following link: [<https://www.babybonus.msf.gov.sg/AI>], under the News & Events section. Please ensure that all your staff, particularly those at the frontline, are also familiar with the proper uses of the CDA. MSF will perform routine checks on AIs’ CDA transactions, to ensure compliance with the Child Development Co-Savings Regulations and the AP/AI T&Cs.

4 Please email us at MSF_Babybonus@msf.gov.sg should you require further clarification.

Yours faithfully

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FAQs

1. What are some examples of virtual field trips which are CDA-payable?

Answer:

A virtual field trip could be a programme organised by and payable to the centre as an AI, to allow the children enrolled at your centre to experience only to local places of interest virtually, such as a museum, factory, or nature reserve.

2. Who can my centre approach if we need to clarify whether an activity can be considered as a virtual field trip?

Answer:

You may approach your centre's governing/licensing authority for further clarification.

3. Can my centre make withdrawals from the CDA for payment of a virtual field trip to a location outside Singapore, facilitated by an agency based overseas?

Answer:

No, your centre can only make withdrawals from the CDA for payment of local virtual field trips conducted by a vendor based in Singapore.

4. Can parents use the CDA of a child's sibling to pay for the child's virtual field trip?

Answer:

Parents can use the funds in the CDA for payment of approved expenses for other siblings of the child, subject to the AI's verification of the relationships under the AP/AI T&Cs.

5. Can my centre make withdrawals from the CDA for payment of virtual field trips conducted before 2 September 2021?

Answer:

Your centre can make withdrawals from the CDA for payment of virtual field trips conducted on or after 2 September 2021.

We seek your understanding that withdrawals from the CDA for payment of virtual field trips conducted before 2 September 2021 is not allowed.

6. My centre did not know that virtual field trips were previously not an approved CDA use, and had made withdrawals from the CDA for payment of virtual field trips prior to 2 September 2021. What should we do about those withdrawals?

Answer:

You should inform MSF at MSF_Babybonus@msf.gov.sg, with the relevant information and supporting documents. We will advise accordingly on your follow-up actions required.