

SWD announces gradual resumption of aided child care centre services and special child care centre services

In view of the latest pandemic situation and the Education Bureau's latest arrangements on the resumption of face-to-face classes, aided child care centre services and special child care centre services provided by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will resume in phases, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said today (September 3). Details are as follows:

1. Aided child care centres providing day care services for children aged under 3 (including aided standalone child care centres and aided child care centres attached to kindergartens) will gradually resume normal services from September 29. Starting from mid-September, child care centres may, having regard to their circumstances (e.g. individual centres' operational modes and individual parents' needs), flexibly arrange for children to return to the centres to facilitate their adjustment. Service users may contact the respective centres for details of the arrangements.
2. Special child care centres will resume centre-based classroom training for upper classes from September 23 and for other classes from September 29. To minimise the risk of infection, classroom training will be conducted on a half-day basis.

Child care centres shall follow the guidelines issued by the Centre for Health Protection on infection control measures. To ensure that children are taken care of in a well-ventilated and safe environment, staff must wear masks, keep adequate social distancing, wash hands frequently, check body temperature as appropriate and more. The SWD will continue to provide child care centres with the latest guidelines on prevention of diseases.

The SWD will keep in view the developments of the pandemic and make further public announcements if necessary.