

Snapshots

Help for Children from Vulnerable Families

MORE CHILD CARE AND KINDERGARTEN ASSISTANCE

January 2009 - **Centre-based Financial Assistance Scheme for Childcare (CFAC)** extended beyond the fourth child to all children from eligible low-income families. They now receive the same CFAC subsidy as that previously provided to the first and second child.

July 2009 - **Increase in subsidies under CFAC and the Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KiFAS)** for low-income families with monthly household incomes of up to \$1,800.

> Previously, families with monthly income of \$1,500 paid about \$40 per month for child care and \$18 per month for kindergarten. With the increase in subsidy, such families now pay only \$10 for child care and \$5 for kindergarten per month.

> The CFAC and KiFAS enhancements are expected to benefit 12,600 children.

WHERE TO APPLY FOR CFAC OR KIFAS

Applications for CFAC/KiFAS can be made at child care centres and eligible kindergartens.



A COMCARE STORY

A Helping Hand

39 year old Mdm Sharifah* has 5 children aged 2 to 14 years old.

The family relies on her income of \$1,700 per month. The extension of CFAC beyond the fourth child in January 2009 allowed her fifth child to receive a CFAC start-up grant and CFAC subsidies every month. Mdm Sharifah now gets CFAC subsidies of \$142 per month for each of her 2 young children. Although child care costs about \$500 monthly for each child, after total government subsidies, she pays about \$60 per month for each child. This helps to lighten her family's financial burden considerably.

* Name has been changed to protect the identity of the mother and her children.