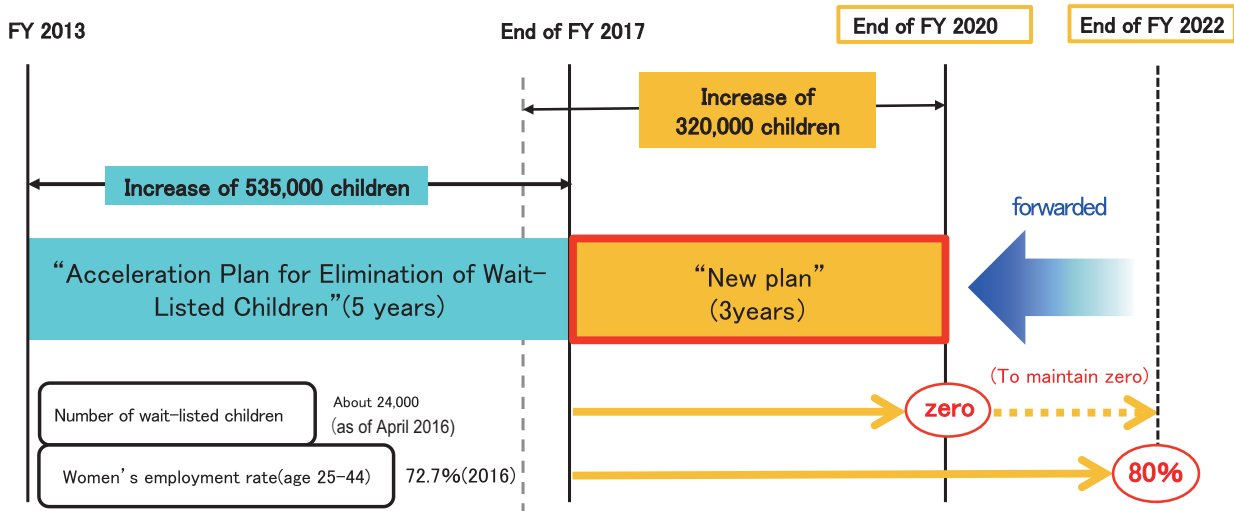


10. Children

Expanding Childcare Centers

- Increased childcare facilities equivalent to approximately 535,000 children over the five years from fiscal 2013 to the end of fiscal 2017, achieving the government’s goal.
- A new plan “Plan for Raising Children in a Peaceful Environment” was announced in June 2017 to establish facilities for 320,000 more children by fiscal 2022, and in September 2017, the target year was moved forward to fiscal 2020.

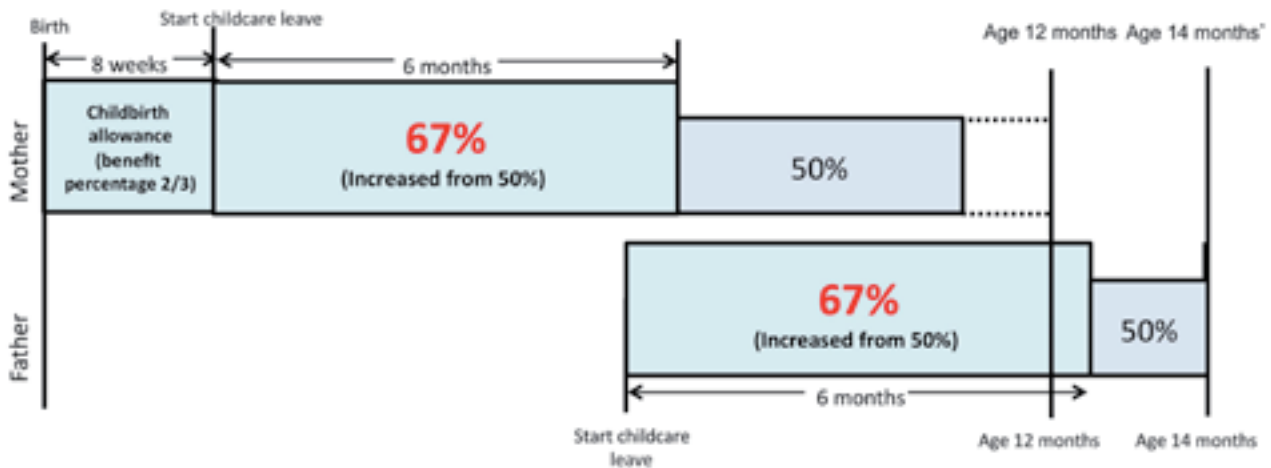


Source: MHLW

Improvement of Childcare Leave Benefit

The Employment Insurance Act was revised to promote both men and women to take child care leave in March 2014. The childcare leave benefits was raised **from 50 % to 67 %** of wage prior to leave for 6 months from the start of leave.

<Illustration of benefit assuming childcare leave is taken by both parents : Benefit percentage>



* Given that childcare leave benefits are tax exempt, and that social insurance premiums are waived during the period of childcare leave, **the effective benefit percentage is about 80%**. (compared to wages prior to taking leave, less tax and social insurance premiums)

Providing Free Child Education and Child care

To reduce the burden that child education and childcare place on guardians, the Child and Child Care Support Act was revised in May 2019 so that, starting October 1, 2019, childcare provided by kindergartens, nursery schools, certified child centers, and similar institutions is free for all children aged 3 to 5, as well as all children aged 0 to 2 living in households that are exempt from municipal taxes.