



The Costs

If your child is offered an Equity contract you must complete a child probationary membership application form and a beneficiary designation form from our insurance carrier.

Most performers who are required by a theatre to sign an Equity contract (and therefore join Equity) in order to meet the quota requirements, are eligible to join as child probationary members. If your child is offered an Equity contract there is a *permit fee* for each contract. There is a one-time *registration fee* of \$200 that must be paid at the time of the first contract. In addition, there is a 2% working dues deduction from your child's weekly fees. Your child will also be covered for insurance benefits under the Equity insurance plan.

Child probationary members will have their permit fees applied to the initiation fee (\$750) when and if they eventually join Equity.

Registration Fee One time only	\$200
Permit Fee Per contract	\$250, the full amount of which is applied to the eventual initiation fee
Maximum Number of Equity Contracts	unlimited
Requirement	Mandatory for children under 16

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Probationary Membership for Children

Child probationary membership is a period during which a child beginning a career in theatre can gain professional experience without some of the obligations of full membership. While a probationary member your child will learn about the rights and responsibilities of membership in CAEA and garner the skills required of a professional theatre artist.



Probationary Membership for Children

This classification of membership is designed to alleviate the need for inexperienced performers to join Equity as full members in order for a theatre to meet the quota requirements of an agreement. Children under the age of 16 shall now be required to join as child probationary members and may not join as full members until at least the age of 16.

A child will be permitted to work in Equity's jurisdiction as many times as they are offered contracts but will not be burdened with the responsibilities of full membership. This applies only to those children who were not already members of ACTRA or any other organization with which Equity has a reciprocal agreement.

In making the choice to become a child probationary member a child can work on an Equity contract, in community or amateur theatre, or register as a non-member. They may accept roles that pay or they can work for free. The point is to get as much experience in theatre as possible.

“What’s the difference between a child probationary member and an apprentice?”

An apprentice is not working under an Equity contract and is not considered a member of the association. A child may not be an apprentice.

“What’s the difference between a probationary and full membership contract?”

There is little difference between a probationary contract and a full member's contract. The child must be paid at least the minimum fee and is eligible for benefits. Equity will make sure that the theatre has provided security to cover some or all of the child's fees in the event that the theatre

doesn't pay. The only real difference is that the child is not permitted to vote in any Equity ratification or election or stand for elected office in the association. A child probationary member cannot be elected Equity Deputy but can vote in the Deputy election.

Under this membership classification, a child probationary member has access to the Deputy and Equity's dispute resolution procedures if a problem did arise. A child probationary member, while engaged under an Equity contract, is treated as a full member for the purposes of that engagement. However, at the conclusion of that engagement, the child probationary member may accept work from another theatre without reference to an Equity contract.

“What’s the difference between child probationary and probationary membership?”

The same fees will apply to a child probationary member as would normally apply under the probationary membership program. However, the child may be engaged as a child probationary member *an unlimited number of times* without being required to join CAEA as a full member. After three engagements, the child probationary member (or the child's guardian) will be advised of the potential adverse effects of the child joining Equity prematurely, although having paid the equivalent of the full initiation fee, the opportunity to join as a full member is open to the child.

“Why not become a full member right away?”

Membership has many benefits but it also has obligations. A member may work in theatre only when signed to an Equity contract subject to minimum fees and other terms established by Equity. This may often preclude working for an amateur or semi-professional theatre.

“What happens when the child turns 16?”

Upon reaching 16, the child can choose how to proceed with no obligation to Equity. The child probationary member can work in other jurisdictions as a non-member, or may apprentice in professional theatre or may enter the probationary member program, or can choose to join as a full member on his/her next professional engagement.

“Does our child need an agent?”

It is probably premature to enlist the services of an agent at this point in your child's career although as your child moves toward professional status you may want to consider it.

Equity cannot provide a recommendation, although you can obtain a list of agents used by CAEA members from the national office. An excellent reference is *The Agents Book*, published by the Acting Modeling Information Service and Theatre Ontario. It is available from Theatrebooks in Toronto or visit: www.theatrebooks.com. Check to see if your agent is a member of the Talent Agents and Managers Association of Canada (TAMAC). TAMAC and Equity have been a part of the Entertainment Industry Coalition (EIC), which has created a code of ethics for agents. If you are unsure, you should call the Acting Modeling Information Service (AMIS) at: 416-977-3832.

“I need more information!”

If you have any questions or would like further information on the other classifications of membership just contact either of our offices or visit us on-line at

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