

Fact Sheet for Foster Carers

30 hours free childcare for three and four year olds in foster care

Who is eligible?

Children in foster care, where their foster parent(s) are working in addition to being a foster carer, can now receive 30 hours (1140 hours per year – the “extended entitlement”) free childcare if the social worker agrees that it is in the best interests of the child.

All three and four year olds are eligible for 15 hours (570 hours per year) free childcare (the “universal entitlement”).

To be eligible for the extended entitlement you and your partner¹ (if you have one)

- must be doing some paid work (including self-employment) in addition to being a foster parent. You can also be on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or sick leave, or expect to start work or re-start work in the next 31 days,
- or
- one of you can be working (as above) and the other can be in receipt of qualifying benefits in relation to disability, such as Severe Disablement Allowance or Carer’s Allowance

Where can children get their extended entitlement?

The extended entitlement can be taken at the same early years settings as the universal entitlement: day nurseries, nursery classes in schools, at pre-schools and playgroups, in nursery schools and with certain childminders.

When can children start their extended entitlement?

See the table below for when children can start in a place, and the deadline for the application form to be sent to the Family Information Service.

Child’s birthday falls between	Form needs to be sent to FIS	Child can start their extended entitlement
1 January – 31 March	By 31 March	On 1 April
1 April – 31 August	By 31 August	On 1 September
1 September – 31 December	By 31 December	On 1 January

How can I apply?

Complete an application form, available from your foster child’s social worker. The form must be signed by the social worker. You should then send it to the Family Information Service who will issue you with a code to take to your chosen childcare provider.

How long will the extended entitlement last?

You will need to reconfirm every three months that you are still working. As long as your circumstances do not change the childcare will last until your foster child starts school.

For further information, help and advice, ring the Family Information Service on 01273 293545, or email familyinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk

¹ If your partner is not a foster carer they will have to meet certain income criteria