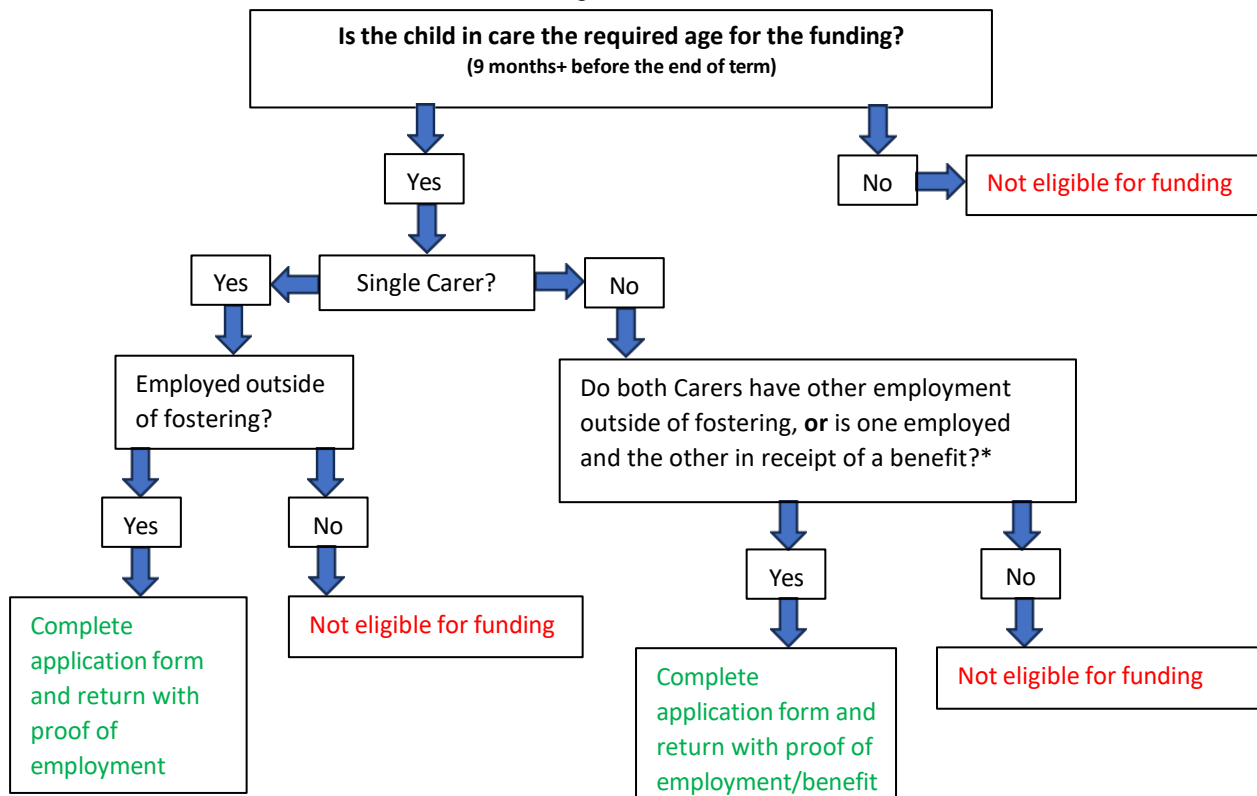


Early Years Childcare Funding Guidance for Social Workers/Fostering Team & Foster Carers

The application to access funded Early Years Education must be consistent with the child's care plan.

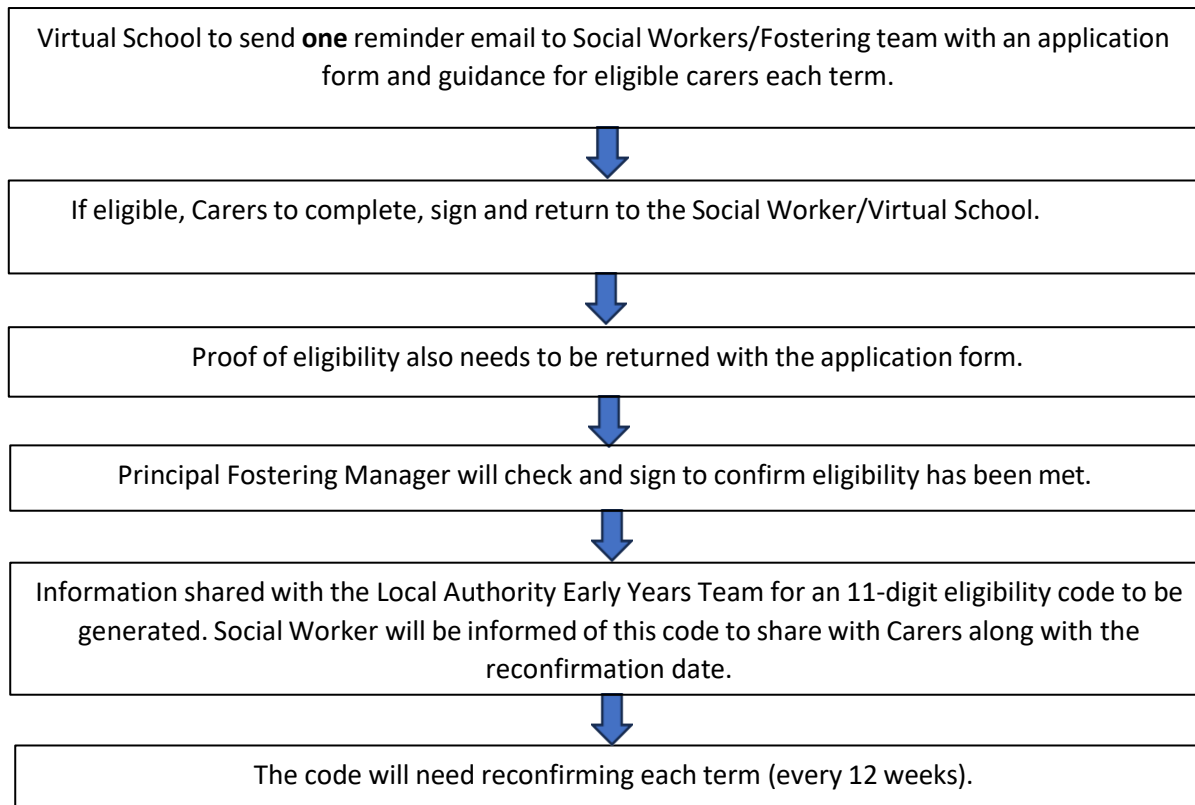
- 30 hours for eligible children aged 9 months+ (Working Foster Carers – apply through the Virtual School)
- 15 hours for 2 Year Olds (Vulnerable/disadvantaged – apply through [Early Years](#))
- 15 hours for 3-4 Year Olds (Universal – no codes needed)
- Additional 15 hours for 3-4 Year Olds (Working Foster Carers – apply through the Virtual School)

Am I eligible for funding? – 30 hours for children aged 9 months+ and additional 15 hours for children aged 3/4



**Eligible benefits (already in receipt of): Universal Credit (assessed as having limited capability for work); National Insurance credits because of incapacity or limited capability for work; Carer's Allowance; Employment and Support Allowance; Incapacity Benefit; Severe Disablement Allowance.*

Application Process



*Proof of eligibility examples; pay slip, official employment verification letter, employment contract, tax documents.

Please note:

- Funding is effective the term after a child turns the required age.
- Autumn term begins 1st September. Spring term begins 1st January. Summer term begins 1st April.
- The DfE deadlines to access the funding are; 31st March, 31st August, 31st December. Applications need to be submitted **in advance** of this date to ensure eligibility can be checked, and to enable the Early Years Officer to generate the code.
- If the application is not received within the timescales outlined in the process, a code will not be generated, and the Foster Carer may be liable for fees.
- Eligibility codes for funded hours must be obtained the term before the child starts a setting. A child cannot start to claim funded hours in the same term that the eligibility code is issued.
- Childcare funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables (such as nappies or sun cream), additional hours or additional activities (such as trips). Providers may charge a fee for these additions. If you choose to pay for these it is an arrangement between you and the childcare provider.
- Childcare Funding is a DfE scheme, not a Virtual School/Local Authority scheme.