

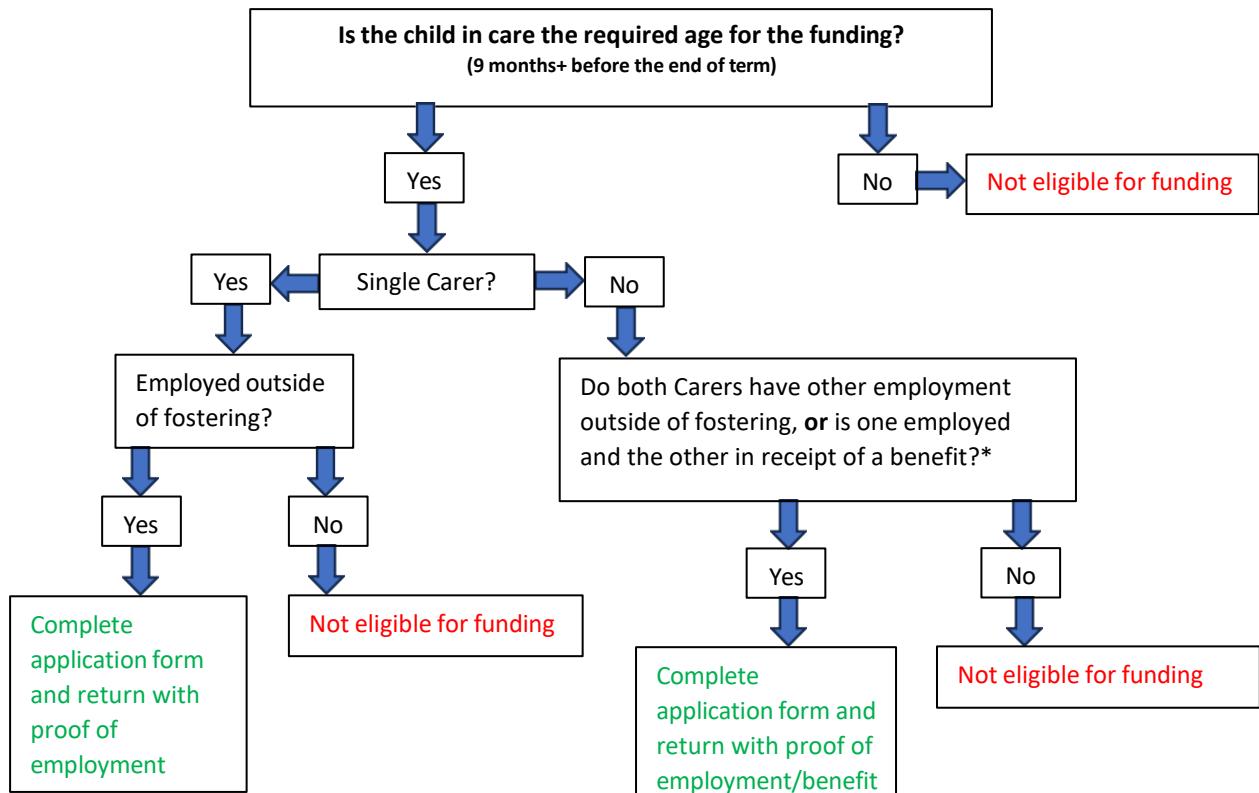


## Early Years Childcare Funding Guidance for Social Workers/Fostering Team & Foster Carers

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

Virtual School to send **one** reminder email to Social Workers/Fostering team with an application form and guidance for eligible carers each term.



If eligible, Carers to complete, sign and return to the Social Worker/Virtual School.



Proof of eligibility also needs to be returned with the application form.



Principal Fostering Manager will check and sign to confirm eligibility has been met.



Information shared with the Local Authority Early Years Team for an 11-digit eligibility code to be generated. Social Worker will be informed of this code to share with Carers along with the reconfirmation date.



The code will need reconfirming each term (every 12 weeks).

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> September. Spring term begins 1<sup>st</sup> January. Summer term begins 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- The DfE deadlines to access the funding are; 31<sup>st</sup> March, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 31<sup>st</sup> 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.