

30 Hours of Free Childcare Eligibility Criteria for children in Foster Care

30 Hours of free childcare is a further 15 hours per week in addition to the universal 15 hours per week all 3&4-year-old children in England are entitled to.

From September 2018, a 3-4-year-old child in foster care may be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare if the child and the foster carers meet the criteria below.

Criteria 1

- The child has attained the age of 3, and
- It is in the best interest of the child and is consistent with the child's care plan

And

Criteria 2 – one of the following scenarios

- In a single parent household, where the foster carer can demonstrate paid employment outside of fostering responsibilities
- In a two parent household, where both parents are foster carers and can demonstrate evidence of paid employment outside of their fostering responsibilities
- In a two parent household, where both parents are foster carers and one is in paid employment and the other can demonstrate they are in receipt of qualifying benefits
- In a two parent household, where one parent is a foster carer but the partner is not a foster carer. The partner must meet the 'normal' eligibility criteria parents have to meet (income threshold of up to £100,000 and working minimum of 16 hours equivalent to minimum/living wage). To apply under this criteria the partner will need to go to www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs and complete an application.

***Please note:** There is no requirement on the type of work or number of hours that a foster carers must work in order to access the 30 hours and there is no minimum earning limit (although they must be engaging in paid work) – DfE Early Years entitlements: operational guidance – June 2018.