

Information for Social Workers regarding 30 hour Childcare for Foster Carers



Do you have Foster Carers who are caring for a 3 or 4 year old who could be eligible for 30 Hours free childcare?

All 3 & 4 year old children can have 15 hours funded childcare a week from the term after their third birthday.

Eligible working parents and working foster parents can have up to 30 hours funded childcare

Foster Carers (of fostered children aged 3 or 4 years) are able to apply for more than the 15 hours (up to a total of 30 hours) of childcare for a fostered child **if they are currently employed or self-employed outside their fostering responsibilities.**

Please could you speak to any foster carers you think could be eligible and request the application form from Robina Kahn, Head of Fostering and Adoption Service Or Danny.Gwilliam@suffolk.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Foster carers are unable to apply online using the childcare choices website

Social Workers will need to see current proof that the foster carer is employed or self-employed outside their fostering responsibilities.

The fully completed application form needs to be sent to Robina Kahn who will authorise the application if she agrees that the arrangement is in keeping with the child's care plan.

The authorised form will then be sent to the Early Years and Childcare Service **before the end of each term** (December, March, August) so that an eligibility code can be generated in readiness for the following term.

The foster carer will need to take this code to a funded childcare provider early in the in the term to book their funded hours.

Reconfirmation - before the end of each term

Using the reconfirmation form Social Workers will need to verify the foster carers employment status every 3 months to ensure they still meet the criteria which must be before the end of the term. The form should be sent to Robina Kahn to authorise and forward to the Early Years and Childcare Service to reconfirm the code. This needs to be done before the end of a term so the code can be reconfirmed in time for use the following term.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Christina Lewis
Head of Service - Early Years and Childcare
Directorate of Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services