**30 Hours Eligibility Criteria for**

**Children in Foster Care**

Working foster carers of 3 and 4 year olds may be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare, for 38 weeks of the year (or fewer hours over more weeks). This is an additional 15 hours of childcare on top of the 15 hours universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds in England.

**Children in foster care will be able to receive 30 hours free childcare, if the following criteria are met:**

**The Child**

* The child’s social worker agrees that accessing the extended hours is consistent with the child’s care plan.
* The child will be accessing the funded hours the term after the child’s third birthday, or later
* The foster carer received their 30 hours code from the local authority in the term prior to the term in which the foster child wishes to start their hours.

**The Foster Carer**

* In single carer foster families, the foster carer engages in paid work outside their role as a foster carer or will be taking up paid employment within the next 31 days. There is no minimum earnings limit, but neither carer can earn more than £100,000.
* In two carer foster families, **both** partners engage in paid work outside their role as a foster carer or will be taking up paid work within the next 31 days. There is no minimum earning limit, but neither carer can earn more than £100,000.
* If one partner is **not** a foster carer, they must be in qualifying paid work and earn a minimum of the equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum/national living wage and no more than £100,000.
* If one foster carer holds additional employment outside of their role as a foster carer and one carer does not hold additional employment but is receipt of one of the following benefits you may still be eligible for 30 hours free childcare.
	+ For Universal Credit purposes, they are assessed as having limited capability for work
	+ I receive National Insurance credits because of incapacity or limited capability for work
	+ I receive a Carer’s Allowance
	+ I receive an Employment and Support Allowance
	+ I receive Incapacity Benefit
	+ I receive a Severe Disablement Allowance

**How do I apply?**

You will need to apply to the local authority that has responsibility for the child in foster care. Contact the child’s social worker to discuss whether accessing the 30 hours is consistent with the child’s care plan. If it is agreed that the application is appropriate, you will complete the application form and have it counter-signed by your foster child’s social worker.

Please use the following email to request an application form: info.fis@derbyshire.gov.uk

You will need to supply evidence to support your application. This may be any of the following documents:

* Payslips for the last 3 months
* Contract of employment to commence within 31 days
* Offer of employment letter to commence within 31 days
* For the self-employed, a tax return for the last financial year.

We recommend that you apply in good time, so that you **receive your code the term before your child becomes eligible**. You can apply up to 16 weeks before your foster child turns three.

**Foster carers will be required to reconfirm their eligibility with the local authority every three months. You will be reminded of the requirement to reconfirm four weeks before your code expires. Failure to reconfirm in time could result in losing the additional hours for the term.**

If the child’s social worker does not support the application form, the foster carer has the right of appeal following the Derbyshire County Council complaints procedure using the link below:

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/complaints/complaints-procedure/complaints-procedure.aspx](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/complaints/complaints-procedure/complaints-procedure.aspx)