

Apply for free childcare for foster children

This form is for foster parents to complete if they wish a child they care for (who is between 9 months and the age at which 24U funding starts) to attend a Shropshire Early Years setting and access a free childcare place – AND/OR to apply for Early Years Pupil Premium funds to be released to the Early Years setting the child attends.

Please see link to guidance for further information:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65d35df9e1bdec773732227c/Free_childcare_for_eligible_working_parents_of_children_in_foster_care.pdf

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) - It is **essential** that this form is completed in order that the child's EYPP funding can be released to their Early Years setting. Without this form the Early Years Funding Team are unable to process this payment. Foster parents (like all other parents) are required to reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months.

Speak to the child's social worker before applying. This might be part of a discussion at a meeting eg CLA Review. If the child's social worker agrees, complete this form.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The child in foster care does not have to take up the full free hours.
- 2-year-olds in foster care are eligible for the 15-hour free entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year-olds regardless of the working status of their foster parents.
- All 3 and 4-year olds (including those in foster care) are eligible for the universal 15 hours free hours regardless of the working status of their foster parents.

[Childcare funding | Shropshire Council](#)

Once you (and any partner) have completed and signed the form, it must be sent to the child's social worker for countersigning.

If your application is successful, you will get your eligibility code from the Early Years team.

This form is only for foster parents. If you are applying for your own children use the childcare service www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

Section 1 – About you

1.1 Your details:

Title	
First name	
Last name	
Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	
National Insurance number	
Address	
Postcode	
Email address	

We need your address and email to send your free childcare eligibility code.

Please tick the relevant box for each question.

1.2 Are you a foster parent of the children named in this form?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

1.3 Do you and the children live in England?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If no, speak to your local council about what childcare schemes are available in your area.

1.4 Are you a British/Irish national?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

1.5 If you have answered “no” to 1.3:

- ☐ Have you acquired settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS);
☐ Have you made an application through the EUSS and are waiting for a decision, or;
☐ Are you appealing a decision on your EUSS application?

1.6 Are you subject to immigration rules that prevent you from receiving public funds?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 2 – what are you applying for

2.1 Are you using this form to apply for:

30 Hours Childcare* ☐ (go to section 3)

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) ☐ (go to section 6)

Both of the above ☐ (go to section 3)

*If you're not requesting to claim the full 30 hours, please state the number of hours that you wish to claim: _____

Section 3 – your employment details

3.1 Are you employed or self-employed outside your fostering responsibilities?

☐ Yes

☐ No

You can still answer yes if you are employed or self-employed but not currently working (for example, if you are on parental leave or sick leave), or if you expect to start or re-start work in the next 31 days.

3.2. Do you expect to earn more than £100,000 in this tax year (April to March)?

(If your income is over this amount you cannot get the working parent free childcare entitlement).

☐ Yes

☐ No

3.3 If you are **not** employed outside your fostering responsibilities, select any that apply to you:

☐ For Universal Credit purposes, I am 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

If you get one of these benefits you may still be able to get the working parent free childcare entitlement if you have a partner who holds additional employment outside their role as foster carer.

3.4 Do you have a partner who lives with you?

☐ Yes

☐ No

A person is your partner if you are married or in a civil partnership, and live together in the same household, or a couple who live together as if you are married or in a civil partnership.

If **Yes**: go to section 4.

If **No**: skip to section 6.

Section 4 – your partner

4.1 Your partner's details

Title	
First name	
Last name	
Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	
National Insurance number	

4.2 Is your partner also a foster parent?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If **Yes**: go to section 5.

If **No**: please contact your local authority (see page 1) who will help you further.

Section 5 – partner's employment details

5.1 Is your partner employed or self-employed outside their fostering responsibilities?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

You can still answer yes if they are not currently working. For example, they are on parental leave or sick leave, or expect to start or re-start work in the next 31 days.

5.2 Does your partner expect their total taxable income in this tax year (April to March) to be more than £100,000?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If their income is over this amount, you cannot get the working parent free childcare entitlement

Now go to section 6.

Section 6 – the children for whom you are making this application

If you are fostering non-related children who could both be eligible for the working parent free childcare entitlement, you will need to complete a separate form for each child.

6.1 Foster children's details:

First name	Last name	Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	When do you expect the child in foster care to join a school reception year? (MM/YYYY)

6.2 Is the child/children looked after by Shropshire Local Authority?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If 'No' please state the name of the Local Authority below.

Section 7 – declaration

7.1 Your declaration:

I agree that the information provided above is correct, and I give permission for Shropshire Council to check my eligibility status with the relevant benefit providers and hold my details to make further checks including Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund. I agree to inform you immediately if my benefit stops or changes.

Signature	
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	

7.2 Your partner's declaration:

I agree that the information provided above is correct, and I give permission for Shropshire Council to check my eligibility status with the relevant benefit providers and hold my details to make further checks including Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund. I agree to inform you immediately if my benefit stops or changes.

Your partner's signature	
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	

Section 8 – Social Worker declaration

Before Shropshire Council can issue you with a code, this form must be counter-signed by the child's social worker.

As the child's Social Worker I declare that I have seen evidence of employment outside fostering, and I am satisfied that the foster parent(s) engaging in paid work other than as a foster parent is consistent with the care plan(s) for the foster child(ren) listed in this application.

8.1 I confirm that I support this application for the working parent free childcare entitlement in respect of the foster child(ren) listed in this application and that it aligns with their Care Plan.

Once completed, please email form to nef@shropshire.gov.uk

Print Name	
Signature	
Position and contact details	
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	

Data protection statement

Data privacy: The Data Protection Act 1998 puts in place certain safeguards regarding the use of personal data by organisations, including the Department for Education (DfE), local authorities and schools. The Act gives rights to those (known as data subjects) about whom data is held, such as pupils, their parents and teachers. This includes:

- the right to know the types of data being held;
- why it is being held; and
- to whom it may be communicated.

Should you have any concerns in relation to how your information or the information relating to your foster child/ren is being or will be used, please contact nef@shropshire.gov.uk

Appeals process

If foster parents are unhappy about the decision made by the local authority, then the foster parents should seek resolution through their social worker or through the local authority complaints process.

If the Local Authority complaints process does not reach a satisfactory conclusion, a request can be made to the Local Government Ombudsman asking them to investigate further. More information on making a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman is available at <https://www.lgo.org.uk/> or by calling the advice line on 0300 061 0614.

Timeframe

The timeframe by which the designated person should respond to any application (not longer than 4 weeks from receipt of application).

Further information

For further information please visit:

[30 hours free childcare: local authority and early years provider guide - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/30-hours-free-childcare-local-authority-and-early-years-provider-guide)
(www.gov.uk)

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Reconfirmation of Early Education Entitlement Funding

Have your circumstances changed from what is recorded on this form? If 'No', please complete 'Section One' below; if 'Yes', please complete Section Two.

Section One (my circumstances have not changed):

I confirm that the information provided on this form has not changed and I wish to reconfirm eligibility in accordance with the details previously supplied.

Subsequent Term:			
Foster Carer		Social Worker	
Signed		Signed	
Date		Date	

Section Two (my circumstances have changed):

Please provide details of the relevant changes below.

Any changes to personal information (i.e. home address, contact telephone number etc.)?

I confirm that the updated information I have provided above is correct and I wish to reconfirm eligibility in accordance with the details provided.

Subsequent Term:			
Foster Carer		Social Worker	
Signed		Signed	
Date		Date	