**Early Years**

 **Newsletter**

**Extending 30 hours to Children in Foster Care**

From September 2018, children in foster care may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare giving foster families the same support as other families.

Children in foster care who are aged 3 and 4 years old will be able to receive 30 hours free childcare, if they meet the criteria, and is agreed by the Social Worker as consistent with the child’s care plan.

Foster Carers must ensure that the initial application is made before, 31 December, 31 March or 31 August, in line with the process for all parents.

Foster Carers will be issued an eligibility code directly from the Local Authority; this will begin with ‘400’. Childcare providers will need to check this code is valid, in the usual way, before offering a place.

Foster Carers will also need to re-confirm their code every 3 months, and the usual process regarding the grace period will also apply.

Here are some additional links with further information:

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/39/nurseries_and_childcare/2054/free_early_education_and_childcare_for_2_3_and_4_year_olds/9>

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>