**Update - Working Parent Entitlements for children in foster care**

Following the government’s roll out of childcare for working parents, the entitlement hours for eligible children in foster care will be expanded for September 2024 to include children aged 9 months and over.

For children to be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

* Foster/kinship carers engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster/kinship carer is consistent with the child’s care plan; and
* Where there is a single foster/kinship family, the foster/kinship carer is engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster/kinship carer; or
* Where there are two foster/kinship carers in the same fostering household, both are  
  engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster/kinship carer; or
* Where there are two foster/kinship carers in the same fostering household, one carer is engaging in paid work outside their role as a foster/kinship carer and the other is in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Social Workers should email [earlyeducationfund@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:earlyeducationfund@bradford.gov.uk) for a referral form.

Once the referral is made, Bradford Council Early Years Funding Team will support the foster/kinship carer to make an application for an eligibility code.

**Working Parent Entitlements Hours**

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| **Age of child** | **Entitlement** |
| 9 months – 2 years | 15 hours of early education for 38 weeks (beginning September 2024) |
| 2 year olds | n/a - All Looked After children aged 2 years are eligible for free hours under the [Terrific Twos entitlement](https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/information-advice/childcare-free-funding/funded-early-education-and-childcare/) |
| 3-4 year olds | 15 hours of early education for 38 weeks in addition to the 15 universal hours (total 30 hours per week /1140 hours per year) |

For any children eligible for the September term, referrals must be made by no later than 24th August in order for Bradford Council Early Years Funding team to check eligibility and issue a valid code prior to the start of term.