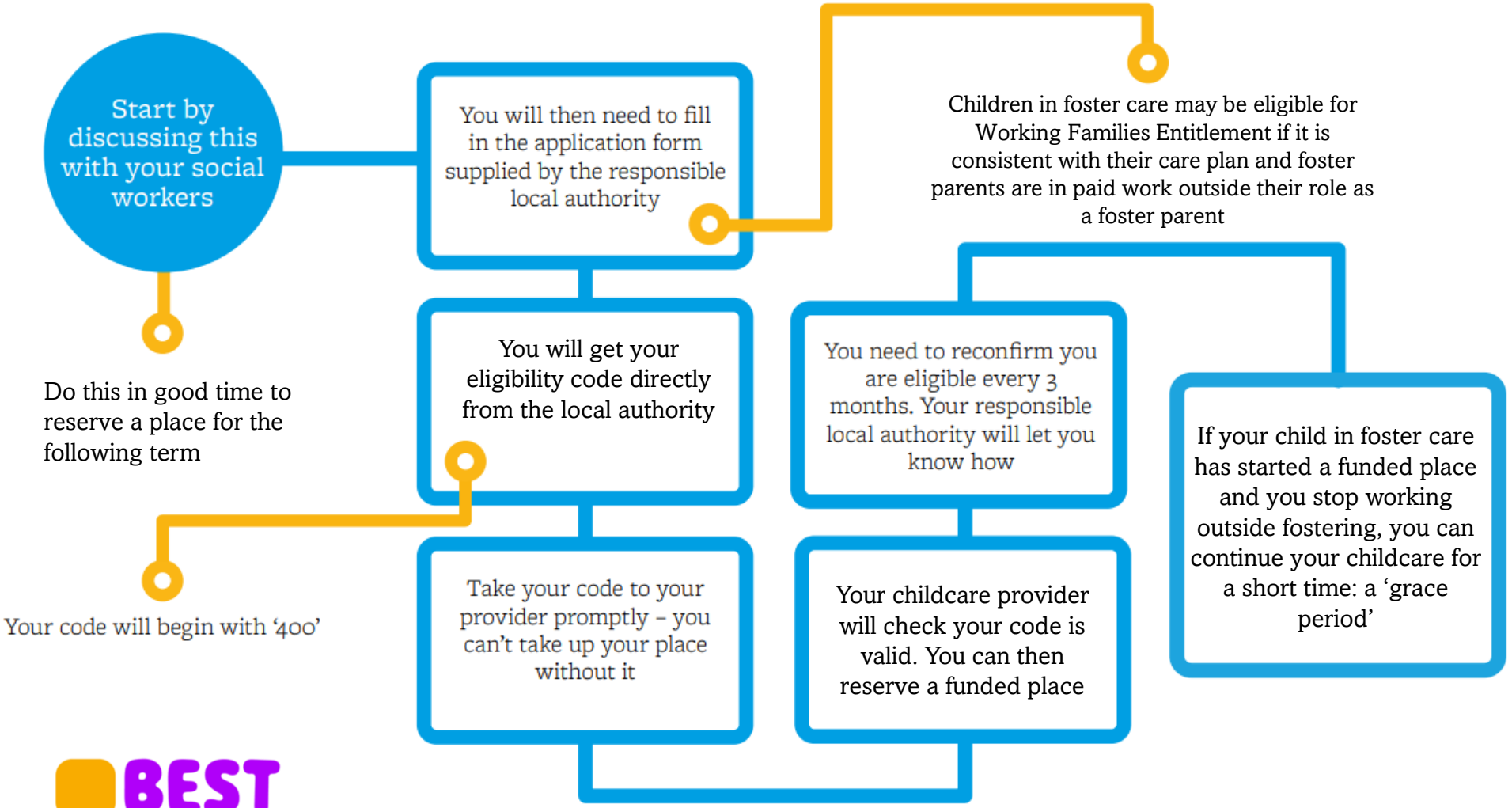
How to apply for Working Families Entitlement as a Foster Carer



BEST START IN LIFE

HM Government

How to apply for Working Families Entitlement as a Foster Carer

What is Working Families Entitlement?

Working parents in England may be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare, for 38 weeks of the year (or fewer hours over more weeks). Children aged 9 months may be entitled the funding period following their birthday. For more information on the scheme see Best Start in Life website.

Am I eligible?

You will be eligible for your children in foster care if it is consistent with the child's care plan and you and your partner (if any) are working outside your fostering role. You should start by discussing this with your social worker.

How do I apply?

You will need to apply through the local authority who is responsible for the child in foster care. You, and your partner (if any), will need your:

- National Insurance number(s)
- Any evidence requested by your local authority.

Will I have to pay for additional charges if I am accessing Working Families Entitlement?

Just like at school, your childcare provider can charge for additional services, for example, lunch, trips or music classes. These charges cannot be a condition of accessing your funded place and alternative arrangements should be made available. Any charges should be itemised and cannot be a supplementary 'top-up'. You should speak to your provider for further information about any additional charges.

Is Working Families Entitlement only available in term time or all year round?

Providers can opt to deliver the standard offer and/or the stretched offer scheme. Standard offer is delivered over 38 weeks and stretched offer is delivered over the number of weeks the provider is open for the year. For example, a child entitled to 1140 hours per year on a stretched offer might be delivered 22 hours over 52 weeks.

When can my child access a Working Families Entitlement place?

You can claim your Working Families Entitlement from the funding period after:

- your foster child's eligible birthday, and
- the date you receive your eligibility code from the local authority.

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's eligible birthday.

