

Why Choose FCA



0800 023 4561
www.thefca.co.uk



Allowances and Rewards

We recognise the value of our fostering families to our community and want to ensure you are always rewarded for your loyalty with us. Along with a generous fostering allowance, we award two bonus payments of £250 each year in the summer and winter, along with an appreciation bonus of up to £1,000 depending on length of service with us. Not just that, but you'll also receive gifts for each milestone you hit, along with our annual appreciation day with events and days out local to you.

We also provide all our foster parents with access to our rewards platform where you can take advantage of fantastic discounts across hundreds of high street names, online stores and supermarkets.

We Invest More to Improve the Lives of Children

We are more than simply the allowance we give to our foster parents. We ensure we invest back into the services we offer to ensure the very best experiences and outcomes for the young people in our care. Whether that be fun local events, career fairs and workshops, or our biggest event of all: 'The Big Sing Off' choir competition which involves all of the regions throughout FCA. Not forgetting our dedicated Participation Team who actively engage with our children and young people to ensure their voices are heard and responded to.

We Are One of The Most Established Independent Fostering Agencies

Being one of the most reputable agencies mean we are a trusted partner for local authorities throughout the UK. Our services are in high demand across the country, which means once you become an approved foster family with us, it won't be long before you'll be making a difference in a child's life. At FCA we are one big family. Our regional teams and offices up and down the country mean you'll have local support, events and services tailored to you.

Professional Support

Our Out of Hours Support is there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. When you join us, you'll be joining our community with access to one of the greatest fostering support packages out there. You'll have access to:

- A dedicated supervising social worker
- A referrals teams that concentrate on making quality matches
- Therapists who work with foster parents and staff so that we help our foster parents care therapeutically
- Dedicated out of hours staff that know how to support you if something goes wrong

First-Class Training and Development

Our training programme is second to none. All our foster parents complete a detailed preparation programme that will equip you with all the skills and knowledge you need to be a successful foster parent. You'll also have access to a wealth of complimentary training courses that will continually develop your skills – all of which are tailored to you and your personal development. All our courses are flexible and designed to work around your schedule, with opportunities to learn both online and face-to-face.

Excellent Ofsted Ratings

We know what it takes to reach the pinnacle of success in regards to delivering a fostering service, and as such all our registrations are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. We have achieved this by listening to our staff, foster families and children. If you want to join an organisation that takes pride in striving for Outstanding, then please choose FCA.

Safe and Happy

At FCA we cherish the fact that children have one childhood and we are very proud of our 'Safe and Happy' mantra – a pledge which is now embedded within the culture of FCA and enables us to build a service that is centred around children and young people feeling safe and happy whilst with us.

Carer Buddy

We will allocate you a foster parent buddy so you and your family will benefit from support and guidance from someone who's already been in your shoes. Their own first-hand experience of the fostering journey means they can provide empathic, insightful advice to guide you through the process smoothly.

Why Choose FCA Eastern

Support for Foster Parents

Expert Matching

Our dedicated referrals team work alongside 10 local authorities throughout the region to offer a wide range of fostering opportunities. We have an excellent track record for quality matching, ensuring your family and the child who will be in your care have a successful and happy fostering experience together. 70% of our children are placed in long-term care with our foster families.

Diverse Fostering Opportunities

We work with all the local authorities to offer a wide range of fostering opportunities. We have single foster parents who care for children on a short-term placement, foster parents who care for a parent and child, and retired couples supporting teenagers to independence. We recognise the diversity of our families and offer support to all members of the fostering household and support network. This could be birth children, grandparents, friends or extended family.



Support Group Meetings

You'll be invited to monthly local support groups held throughout the region to help you build and maintain friendships with other foster parents and access a wider support network. These groups can offer specific support and guidance for foster parents and help you access support tailored to your family circumstances.

Experienced Foster Parents Providing Specialist Care

Our foster parents come from all backgrounds and are of all ages. Between them, they have approximately over 518 years of combined experience.

We have specialised foster parents for children and young people with disabilities, unaccompanied minors, and Parent and Child placements. Together, they offer a wealth of knowledge to both new and experienced foster parents.

Training and Development

Children and young people in our region share their experiences directly with potential foster parents during the pre-approval Prepare to Foster training. Additionally, birth children from fostering families also speak to prospective foster parents, offering valuable insights into the fostering journey.

Free Events and Activities

Your entire family is welcome to join us for our regular, free, fun events and days out throughout the year. We also acknowledge and celebrate all the achievements of our children and young people in true big FCA style!

Activities and award ceremonies include:

- A yearly foster family appreciation day
- Christmas lunch for foster parents
- Activities for children and young people, including paddleboarding, trampolining, trips to the zoo and more!
- Long service celebrations for staff and foster parents
- Achievement awards for children and young people

Support for Children and Young People:

Independent Support for Young People

Our supervising social workers and participation officer work with all our young people aged 14 years plus to give them the essential skills for independence.

Personal Development

For all our children and young people, we create a Personal Development Plan alongside a Learning and Development Strategy to ensure the individual needs of young people are met.

Celebrating Every Child's Journey

Every child who experiences family care with us receives a "Whilst You Were With Us" booklet, capturing memories, positive experiences, and heartfelt messages from their foster parents and staff across the region. For many of our children, frequent transitions have been a part of their journey, making it essential to help them preserve their memories and create 'their story.'



