fca
the difference that lasts a lifetime

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. In addition, 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 means 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 team 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 when 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.

What Makes FCA Midlands Unique



Support Group Meetings

You'll be invited to several local support groups held throughout the region each month. These gatherings will help you build and maintain friendships with other foster parents and access a wider support network.

Some of our support groups are specifically for men and single-carer households, ensuring you receive support tailored to your family's circumstances.

Expert Matching

Our dedicated referrals team works alongside 14 local authorities in the Midlands to ensure we match the right child to your family. We have an excellent track record for quality matching, ensuring your family and the child who will be in your care will have a successful and happy fostering experience together.

Communication

Like any career, fostering is a journey of learning. That's why we offer high-quality conferences for staff and foster parents. Delivered by skilled experts, these opportunities provide a real insight into various aspects of fostering, helping you to continue developing your skills and confidence as a foster parent.

Our regional monthly newsletter ensures all our staff and foster parents receive regular updates and are informed about upcoming opportunities, events, and training.

Participation

We have a strong focus on participation at FCA, where we actively engage with our children and young people. Listening to our children and young people is how we strive to always improve. Our innovative and proactive Participation Team ensures our children have their voices heard, gain new experiences, learn new skills, and have fun!

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 the achievements of all our children and foster parents in true big FCA style! Activities and award ceremonies include:

- Annual regional sports day
- Yearly foster family appreciation day
- Christmas lunch for foster parents
- Activities for children and young people, including arts and crafts, laser tag, beach days, and more!
- Long service celebrations for staff and foster parents
- Yearly achievements awards for children and young people
- Big Sing Off Competition – the biggest event in the FCA calendar where choirs of children and young people, foster parents, and staff across the UK come together for a fun-filled day of music, activities, and friendly competition!

FCA Midlands fun days are fantastic opportunities for you, your family members and the children in your care to make new friends, build relationships, and enjoy fantastic days out together.

We also have monthly Time to Shine awards, where we recognise special achievements of foster parents and staff.



Stronger Futures

We recognise the importance of supporting our young people to enable them to be independent. Our Life Skills Residential for young people aged 15 and over helps them to develop the skills they need to live independently – such as cooking, budgeting, and going out in the community.

Transferring Families

If you're a transferring foster parent looking to switch from your current fostering agency or local authority, transferring to FCA Midlands is easier than you think. We have proven success in supporting foster families to make the switch to FCA. Our dedicated team is on hand to help make the transition as smooth as possible



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