

# Why Choose FCA



0800 023 4561  
[www.thefca.co.uk](http://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.

## What Makes FCA South Western Unique?

## Supporting our Foster Parents

### Therapeutic Care

We understand that your development as a foster parent is crucially important so that you can offer the children you look after the best trauma-informed care possible. That's why at FCA South Western we offer all our foster parents therapeutic-based training. Incorporating Adapt, Attune and PACE models of care, our training provides foster parents with the tools they need to build strong relationships with their foster children and help them to move through the trauma they have experienced.

We are supported by a team of therapists who are on hand to offer advice and guidance to help you respond to a child's needs with empathy and sensitivity to provide the best levels of care.

### Social Worker Support

You'll develop a strong working relationship with your allocated supervising social worker, who'll provide weekly support calls, conduct monthly one-to-one supervision meetings, and help you access relevant training.

### 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.

### Expert Matching

We have an excellent track record for quality matching, ensuring your family and the child in your care will have a successful and happy fostering experience together, giving careful thought to your experience and skills and what the child or young person needs.





## Participation

We have a strong focus on participation at FCA South Western, where we actively engage 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 ensure that our children have their voices heard, gain new experiences, learn new skills and have fun!

## Celebrations and Activities

Your entire family is welcome to join us for our regular free fun events and days out throughout the year. These events are fantastic opportunities for you, your family members and the children in your care to make new friends, build relationships and enjoy a fantastic day out together. We also acknowledge and celebrate all our children's and foster parent's achievements in true FCA style, making sure every member of your fostering family knows just how appreciated and valued they are. Our activities and awards include:

- Our annual regional Fun Day
- A foster family appreciation day every year
- Christmas lunch for foster parents
- Long service celebrations for staff and foster parents
- Yearly achievements awards for children and young people
- Activities for children and young people including indoor climbing, trampolining, water sports and more
- Time to Shine awards, where we recognise special achievements of foster parents and staff monthly

## Transferring Families:

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

# Supporting our Children and Young People

## AQA Qualification Awards Scheme

FCA South Western is a registered AQA Unit Award Scheme Centre. This means that all our children and young people, of all ages and abilities, are encouraged to take part in a range of AQA UAS units which will enable them to gain recognised certificates from AQA. These units can be achieved either through group workshops or independent achievements.

Some examples of topics young people can gain AQA certificates in are Diversity and Inclusion, Food Hygiene, Money and Budgeting, Volunteering, and Hair and Beauty. AQA training is a great way to support young people's confidence, self-esteem and to prepare them for adulthood.

## The Wave Project

At FCA South Western, we believe our children are our greatest achievement. Through partnerships like the Wave Project, we offer innovative wellbeing pathways that support resilience, self-esteem, and lifelong positive outcomes. The Wave Project's Surf Therapy harnesses the healing power of the ocean to help children and young people feel empowered, emotionally supported, and connected. This therapeutic approach not only benefits those in our care but also positively impacts families, staff, education, and the wider community.

## Young Farmers Initiative

A small group of our FCA young people will have the unique opportunity to spend a day working on a farm, guided by one of our foster parents. This hands-on experience offers insight into farm life while encouraging teamwork, responsibility, and connection with nature.





