

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 Yorks and Lincs

Supporting our Foster Parents

Diversity

Our foster parents come from all backgrounds and are of all ages. We have single foster parents who can offer siblings a home, couples with birth children who support sanctuary-seeking young people, 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.

It doesn't matter if you're female, male, non-binary, straight, gay, single, married, divorced, or don't have any experience in working with children. What truly matters is your dedication and commitment to transforming the lives of vulnerable children.

Social Worker Support

You'll develop a strong working relationship with your dedicated supervising social worker. They'll support you by visiting regularly, conducting monthly one-to-one supervision meetings, and helping you access training.

Our high-quality training programmes and annual conferences are accessible and relevant to all our foster parents, enabling you to continue developing your skills and confidence in your role.



Expert Matching

Our dedicated referrals team work alongside all Local Authorities across Yorkshire and the East 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 have a successful and happy fostering experience together.

Therapy Support

Our therapy team is made up of therapists with different specialist knowledge and are able to bring this to their role in supporting our foster parents and maintaining stability for our children. They offer therapeutic training, one to one consultations and group sessions. All new foster parents will be invited to the Therapeutic Parenting training programme, based on the PACE model and will be provided with a 'Let's Be Curious' session when children are newly placed as part of our aim in providing stability for our children.

Free Events, Activities, and Celebrations

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 fun day
- Yearly foster family appreciation day
- 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 crafting, theme park trips, rollerblading, football tournaments, and more!
- 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 Yorks and Lincs fun days are fantastic opportunities for you, your family members, and the children in your care to make new friends, build relationships, and enjoy memorable days out together.

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

Supporting our Children and Young People

Educational Support for Young People

FCA Yorks and Lincs is a registered AQA Unit Award Scheme Centre. This means that children and young people of any age or ability, can complete a range of AQA UAS Units and gain certificates, either through group workshops or independent achievements. Some examples of topics young people can gain AQA certificates in include Diversity and Inclusion, Food Hygiene, Money and Budgeting, Volunteering, and Hair and Beauty. The AQA Award Scheme is a great way to support young people's confidence, self-esteem, and preparation for adulthood. We also offer CV workshops and interview training for our young people, along with career events to give them the opportunity to explore post-16 opportunities and practice key interview preparation skills.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

We are a registered DofE provider which gives our young people the opportunity to socialise, support their community, and learn new skills to support opportunities available to them in the future, including college and university applications, workshops, group exercises, webinars and work experience in the local community.

Participation

We have a strong focus on participation at FCA, where we actively engage our children and young people. We always strive to improve by listening to our children and young people. Children cared for by us are given the opportunity to join our Make the Difference team or mini Make the Difference team where they can influence policy and practice in the region. Children who foster also have a voice and come together regularly to consider what is important to them. Our innovative and proactive Participation Team ensures that all of our children have their voices heard, gain new experiences, learn new skills, and have fun!



