



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 and trusts 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.

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 Northern Ireland

Team Parenting Model

Fostering can come with its challenges, but you'll never be alone while fostering. Our experienced local team will provide you with 24/7 support 365 days a year.

Here at FCA we use a collaborative approach to parenting, known as our Team Parenting model. This means we'll meet with you regularly alongside a range of professionals including children's support workers, education specialists, therapists and social workers, who will all be available to help you learn, grow and offer the highest standard of care and support to the children you foster.

Diverse Fostering Opportunities

Our dedicated referrals team work with all Health and Social Care Trusts to offer a wide range of fostering opportunities. 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.

Social Worker Support

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

FCA have given us a lot of support, our supervising social worker has been there with advice and guidance, and the training we can access is excellent!

– FCA foster parent



Expert Matching

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, 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 Northern Ireland, 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 local activities and celebrations over Christmas, Easter, Halloween and the summer holidays. These 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 show stopping FCA style with a yearly achievement awards ceremony for our children and young people.

Support Group Meetings

You'll be invited to local support groups held each month to help you build and maintain friendships with other foster parents and access a wider support network. These meetings are a great opportunity to chat, unwind, share tips and experiences and strengthen your commitment to fostering.



