

Foster carers in the UK receive weekly allowances to cover the cost of caring for a child, with additional payments available based on experience, the child's needs, and the type of placement.

Here's a detailed breakdown of the financial support available to foster carers in the UK as of 2025:

Weekly Fostering Allowance

- **Standard allowance:** All foster carers receive a weekly payment designed to cover food, clothing, travel, school supplies, and other essentials.
- **Amount varies by:**
 - The **age of the child**
 - The **region** (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
 - The **fostering service** (local authority or independent agency)

Skills-Based Payments

- Carers may receive **additional fees** based on their **training level, experience**, or ability to care for children with complex needs.

Specialist Placement Payments

- Higher rates are available for:
 - **Therapeutic placements**
 - **Medical needs**
 - **Parent and child placements**
 - **Remand**

Tax Relief & Benefits

- Foster carers qualify for **special tax arrangements**:
 - **Qualifying Care Relief** allows carers to earn up to a threshold tax-free.
 - You're considered **self-employed**, so you'll need to register with HMRC.
- You may also be eligible for **certain benefits**, depending on your household income and circumstances.