Foster Sandwell

Sandwell Children's Trust

Ofsted Good Provider

Payments for Foster Carers

2026 - 2027



Foster carers receive a fee and a maintenance allowance for each child in their care. The level of fee is dependent upon the skills of the carer and the maintenance allowance is paid according to the age of the child.

Carer Fee Payments (For each child)

Skill Level	1 Night	Weekly Amount	Equivalent Per Year
1	£19.92	£139.45	£7,251.40
2	£23.90	£167.35	£8,702.20
3	£31.87	£223.12	£11,602.24
4	£38.85	£271.94	£14,140.88
5	£46.82	£327.72	£17,041.44
Specialist	£99.61	£697.25	£36,257.00

Movement between skill levels (progression) is dependent upon the skill levels of carers.

Maintenance Allowances (For each child)

Age of Child	Night	Weekly Amount	Equivalent Per Year
0-4	£27.01	£189.08	£9,832.16
5-10	£30.77	£215.38	£11,199.76
11-15	£38.30	£268.13	£13,942.76
16+	£46.59	£326.10	£16,957.20

Fees and allowances are paid fortnightly. Carers are treated as self-employed and are advised to seek the advice of an accountant.

FOSTER TALK #SUPPORTINGTHOSEWHOCARE

Foster Talk also have some **great resources** and advice for foster carers.

Additional Allowances

Carers are also entitled to the following payments

Age of Child	Initial Clothing	Holiday Grant	Birthday / Festival
0-4	£162.22	£294.93	£110.59
5-10	£182.99	£368.66	£147.47
11-15	£205.90	£368.66	£184.32
16+	£228.38	£368.66	£221.20

Purchasing Equipment

Sandwell Children's Trust supports foster carers in ensuring they have safe and appropriate equipment for children in their care.

Equipment	Allowance
Car seat	£70.00
Stairgate	£30.00
Buggy/double buggy	£116.16 / £189.00
Bed and mattress	£189.00
Drawers	£99.00
Cot & mattress	£108.33
Bedding bale	£39.57
Wardrobe	£179.00









Pocket Money and Savings

Carers are required to make savings for each child in their care. £5.00 weekly is to be saved for each child up until the age of 16, when the expectation is £10.00 weekly. The weekly sum comes from the carers' maintenance allowance.

Extra money (e.g. gifts at birthdays or from families) can be paid into the savings account.
Children are also entitled to receive pocket money commensurate with their age.

Sandwell Children's Trust has the following expectations.

Age of Child	Amount per week
0-4	£6.95
5-10	£11.53
11-15	£17.94
16+	£30.23

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