



Money matters

We know that people don't foster for the money, but we'd never want finances to be a barrier for anyone interested in this amazing career. **In fact, you might even be surprised by everything you're entitled to!**

How does it all work?

As a foster carer, you are self-employed and receive a fostering allowance for every night you care for a child. This allowance is to cover things such as food, clothing and pocket money for the child, as well as a fee for your professional services as a foster carer.

The exact amount you'll receive will depend on the number of children in your care, but on average our foster carers receive **£552.72 per child per week**.
(as of July 2026)



Key facts at a glance

Additional payments

On top of your fostering allowance, we make a number of additional payments throughout the year. This can include Christmas and birthday allowances, training payments, mileage payments, long-service awards, recommend-a-friend rewards and one-off payments such as the **£150 energy payment** we made in October 2022.

Tax

When you become a foster carer, you will need to register as self-employed with HMRC to file a tax return each year and make National Insurance contributions towards your state pension — but don't worry, we'll be on hand to point you in the right direction.

Foster carers are entitled to 'qualifying care relief', which means that you can:

- *earn £20,440 from fostering before you have to pay tax*
- *get tax relief for every week you foster a child*

This means that **you won't pay tax on the first £20,440** earned from fostering, and will also not have to pay tax on some of your earnings over £20,440, based on the age and number of weeks you've had a child in your care. The result is that you get to take home more of your money, and many carers find they don't have to pay any tax at all!

Benefits

As a self-employed foster carer, you'll still be eligible to **claim most state benefits** and any means-tested benefits won't class your fostering allowance as income. You'll be able to claim child benefit for your own children, just not for any child you're receiving fostering allowance for.

All information correct as of July 2026
Please see website for up-to-date information

For more information simply visit the '**Fostering with us**' page on our website **www.treehousecare.org**



Tree House Care
doing the right thing for our children



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