



**Sandwell**  
Children's Trust

# Progression for Foster Carers

Guide to progression for  
foster carers 2019/20



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# Foster Carer Progression

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All approved carers receive a fee commensurate with their skills level. A fee is paid in respect of each child placed with a carer

For details of skills payments, please see [‘Foster Carer Guide to Payments’](#)

## Regulation 25/25 carers

When carers are given ‘Temporary Approval’ as foster carers, under Regulation 24 for 16 weeks, which may be extended to Regulation 25 for a further 8 weeks, they are paid the appropriate maintenance allowance for the child/children in their care.

They are also able to claim initial clothing allowance, equipment and holiday, birthday and festival allowances, if these occur during the period of placement.

They are not paid the fee element until they are recommended and approved at Fostering Panel as foster carers



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## Level 1

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Entry level into fostering.

Foster carer must support improving outcomes for looked after children. Following the first twelve months of fostering, carers are eligible for applying for Level 2 Skills payments.



# Level 2

For foster carers to progress to level 2 they need to complete the following;

- TSD standards portfolio which is signed off and verified by the fostering team manager.

Core training;

- Challenging behaviour
- Health and safety
- Paediatric first aid
- Raising educational aspirations
- Total respect
  - Children's rights & participation
  - Communication with children and young people
  - Promoting independent living skills
- Artemis E-learning Training
  - Safeguarding CYP level 1
  - Working with Parents
  - Information Governance
  - A Signs of Safety approach to working with families
- 30 weeks of fostering in a 52-week period

The above will be presented at foster carer review.

Foster carer must continue to improve outcomes for children.

*Following a minimum of twelve months further fostering, Level 2 carers are eligible for progression to level 3.*



## Level 3

The Foster Carer Supervising Social Worker will present a report to the Registered Fostering Manager to agree progression to level 3 Skills payments.

Foster carers will be expected to;

- Attend and contribute to support group (attending a minimum of 50%)
- Support foster carer recruitment

Foster carers must complete the following training;

- Bereavement and loss
- Life story and memory boxes
- On-line Safety
- Recording and reporting writing
- Managing allegations
- Signs of safety training (half a day)
- Attachment and child development

Foster carer must continue to improve outcomes for children.



## Level 4

To progress onto Level 4 the Foster Carer will need to;

- Keep a CPD portfolio
- Attend and contribute to support groups
- Support foster carer recruitment
- Be prepared to offer placement with specialized and complex care arrangements

Foster Carer must complete at least 4 training courses which are identified in consultation with the Foster Carers Supervising Social Worker.

Foster Carer must support foster carer training including Skills to Foster.

The Supervising Social Worker will present a report on the foster carers skills to the Fostering Team Manager.

Foster carer must continue to improve the outcomes for children.



## Level 5

Carers must maintain the above levels

Additionally, carers will need to offer placements to children who are stepping down from residential and other complex behaviours

Carers must be responsible for their own development and maintaining their CPD

Carers must present a portfolio of their CPD and a supporting report from their SSW and IRO which is signed off by the Registered Fostering Manager.

Carers' commitment to supporting children and improving their outcomes to continue.

