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Your submission for this review:

As a long term foster carer over the past 15 yrs i have found its the unexpected expenses that cause difficulties.e.g Ventolin spacers, non prescription medications e.g iron supplements, Children with excema purchasing suitable non prescription products for skin care e.g dermaveen, wash and moisturiser etc.Suitable bedding protections for allergies etc.Sadly cost of living has skyrocketed and to provide healthy food stretches the budget immensely..For childrens mental health and heathier lifestyle choices e.g swimming, sports etc has been proven to be beneficial but cost of sporting necessities and membership fees, travelling expenses to games etc isnt supported financially once again stretching the home budget.School expenses, uniforms , excursions, school fees, etc .Whilst NGO s help cover medical , parental contact expenses, mental heath needs in some cases, these are not the only thing that is needed to raise a child ,try budgeting and saving for car expenses that are needed to transport children in care to appointments etc that are necessary .Home expenses electricity , gas prices have risen, but over the years carers payment havent kept up with inflation.Carers foster/kinship etc do what they do out of love for children in care, training, etc doesnt prepare you for the path ahead , the roller coaster of dealing with children with trauma ,neglected health issues, behaviour issues etc most carers do their best with some support from caseworkers. Most carers struggle but cope because we have no choice , Some carers also have their bio children to provide for.Some carers are single income families due to the needs of foster children .We do choose to foster/kinship care , we arent doing it to gain financial security , the government to be aware of the journey and expenses is a priority, and if the system supported carers better financially ,there would be more caters available to help raise these children..IT Takes A VILLAGE !!!!!!!