A guide for parents and carers

Film and TV careers behind the camera. Plain answers to the questions parents ask first: is it real, how does pay work, is it safe, and how can you help? From Futures in Film CIC.

Is it a real career?

- Yes. Most people in film and TV work behind the camera: camera, lighting, sound, art department, costume, hair and make-up, production, post.
- Many crew are freelance and go job to job. Some roles, like runners and trainees, are usually paid through payroll (PAYE).
- People get in through paid trainee schemes, apprenticeships, entry-level jobs like runner, and recommendations.

How pay works

- Crew are paid by the day or week. Union rate cards (Bectu) set out grades and terms. We don't print rates: they change every year.
- Trainees and runners must get at least the National Minimum Wage if they count as workers. Check GOV.UK for the current rates.
- Freelancers send invoices and pay their own tax. Gaps between jobs are normal: saving for them is part of the job.

Is it safe?

- Productions must assess risks and brief crew. Anyone on set can call stop if something is unsafe.
- Under-18s have stricter limits on hours and breaks. Child performers need a licence from the council. Most paid crew routes start at 16 or 18.
- Good productions name someone to go to with a concern, and have a bullying and harassment policy.

Spot a scam

- Real productions never charge you to work, train or join a crew list.
- No company name, WhatsApp-only contact, pressure to decide fast, or requests for ID or bank details before an offer: stop and check.
- Report scams to Report Fraud (or Police Scotland on 101).

Faith and family

- Prayer, fasting, food, holy days and modest dress can be planned for. Raise it at booking.
- Futures in Film runs the Faith Inclusion Toolkit for productions: futuresinfilm.com/faith-inclusion/

How you can help

- Help them watch how films are made: behind-the-scenes films and our free Watch and Learn channel.
- Back the early mornings: lifts, packed food, warm layers, a phone charger.
- Help them keep records: invoices, receipts, hours worked.
- Read a deal memo with them before they say yes.

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Real routes in

- ScreenSkills Trainee Finder: paid placements on productions (watch for the next intake).
- BFI Film Academy (free, 16 to 25).
- Apprenticeships in broadcast and production.
- Futures in Film: free online courses, then a competency check and an in-person practical.

Get help

- Film and TV Charity Support Line, 24 hours: 0800 054 0000.
- Childline (under 19s): 0800 1111. NSPCC helpline for adults worried about a child: 0808 800 5000.
- Futures in Film: info@futuresinfilm.com. More at futuresinfilm.com/academy/for-parents/