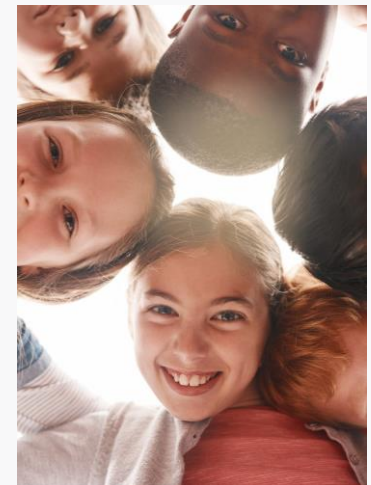


How-to Guide

DLA





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Disability Living Allowance

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit to help with personal care and/or getting around.
- DLA is available to children up to their 16th birthday who have a disability. (Post-16 it is possible that you will be able to claim Personal Independence Payment).

Need to knows:

- 1) DLA is non-means tested – it is not related to your income or savings.
- 2) You do not need a diagnosis to apply for DLA.
- 3) DLA can be a ‘passport’ to other benefits such as Carers Allowance, Council Tax Reductions, Blue Badge etc.
- 4) DLA is divided into two parts – Care component and Mobility component. Both parts are claimed using the same application form.
- 5) You can claim online or a paper version. (Further details on page: 8).

Is my child/young person entitled to DLA?



- If your child needs help or support with things like washing, dressing, going to the toilet and getting around outdoors or because they need someone to keep an eye on them during the day and night, then you should apply for DLA.
- In simple terms, if your child requires more support than of an average peer their age, then yes, you should apply for DLA.
- It is not guaranteed you will receive DLA, and if you are in receipt of DLA you will have to complete renewals when stated and report any changes.
- If your application is declined, you are able to appeal the decision.



Care And Mobility Component.

- Care component = Things like dressing, toileting, washing, teeth cleaning, dressing, mealtimes, bedtimes, etc.
- Care component is split into 3 levels – low, middle or high. Dependent on the needs you state in the application will result in the rate of DLA you will receive.
- You can claim the care component from birth.

- Mobility component = Severe physical problems such as wheelchair users, or sometimes extreme behavioral issues that puts them at risk when travelling.
- Mobility component is split into 2 levels – lower and higher.
- You can claim the mobility component from the age of 3 years, from 3 to 5 years old they can only receive the higher mobility component and it is mainly aimed at children with severe physical problems. From 5 years old you can claim for a lower rate of mobility.

- Both of these are completed on the same form – if mobility component is not required then you skip that part of the form – it is all clearly labelled.

How much will I receive on my child's behalf?

- If your claim is successful, you could receive anything from about £24 to over £150 per week dependent on your child's needs. This claim will most likely require reviewing, where you will be asked to complete the forms again with the most up to date evidence, however this can vary.
- This money will be paid into a bank account of your choice monthly on a set week.
- Post-16 it is possible that you will be able to claim PIP – Personal Independence Payment. (0800 917 2222).





Other benefits once DLA is received.

- If your claim is successful to receive DLA, you may then be entitled to other benefits.
- If you claim universal credit, you may then receive carers element and disabled child element. Ensure you make a note on your UC journal that you now have a child in receipt of DLA and they should update and back pay.
- You can apply for carers allowance, however this is dependent on your earnings so please read the details of this prior to applying.
- If your child has their own space in your home – not including their bedroom – that is used to regulate emotions, to keep them safe, or has been adapted for them in some way such as bathroom – you can claim for a council tax reduction – again please research this further with your local authority.



Other benefits once DLA is received.

- Access passes for theme parks. You can apply for these online prior to going.
- Free carer entry at some places. Take your DLA letter with you when visiting and ask at the entrance if they accept a free carer.
- Airport assistance. You can phone Bristol airport prior to your arrival on 01275 473403 and you can let your airline know. Sometimes if you book flights via Easyjet you can call their assistance line and they will book your seats together for free. (This is not guaranteed).
- You may be entitled to a reduction on your water bills, you can apply for this through your water company if you are using extra water in excess. Such as washing clothes and bedding continuously, special bathroom facilities etc. Check with your water supplier.
- You may be entitled to a reduction on your electricity bills; again apply for this via your supplier. If you have to use oxygen machines, ECG machines or suction machines etc.



How do I claim for DLA?

- If you wish to complete a paper document – call 0800 121 4600 and request a form, they will then send this out to you and the claim will be back dated from the time you made the call. Once you have completed the form, we suggest making copies or taking photos of the document so you can reference on your renewals.
- Once you have received the paper DLA claim form you have 6 weeks to complete it and send it back. Return it too:

Disability Benefit Centre
4 Post Handling Site B
Wolverhampton
WV99 1BY

- We would suggest sending it signed for if you are able to do this.
- Alternatively, you can complete the DLA form online at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-living-allowance-for-children-claim-form>
- From March 2023, there is a current waiting time of around 25 weeks on hearing if you have been successful or not. If you are successful you may receive a text. You will receive a letter in the post either way – if you are not successful it will give you the details on how to appeal. If you are successful it will give you the breakdown of the rates you will receive. Keep this letter safe as you can use the document in the future.



Advice on filling out the form.

1. Please be aware that the application form for DLA is long and extremely in depth. There are plenty of helpful resources out there that can support you in the wording of filling it out, however just remember to be clear, concise and truthful.
2. Although they do not advise it, think about the worst days you have when filling it out. Remember this means that it can be quite overwhelming and emotional so ensure you give yourself a break – do not fill it all out at once.
3. Evidence is a key factor when applying for DLA, photocopy any evidence you have – doctors records, any professional reports, targets at school/nursery, EHCP's, incident reports, absolutely anything related to your child that shows their additional needs. Do not send originals as you will not get them back.



Advice on filling out the form continued.

1. Give as full as picture as you can.
2. Do not assume that the decision maker who reads your application will know how their additional needs affects your child. Fill in the form with as much detail as possible about the difficulties your son or daughter has with daily living tasks.
3. Do add on extra pages if you need more space than is provided by the boxes on the form (but be sure to add your child's full name and date of birth on the top of these additional pages). Do not let the form's questions restrict what you write - if you need to add more information, do so!
4. Remember that you may take for granted all the help you give your child, so think carefully about all the extra support and care you have to provide to ensure your child develops to their full potential. Sometimes it helps to ask other people outside your immediate family to comment, as they may be able to remind you what extra support your child requires. They may also wish to complete the section towards the back of the DLA form which asks for a statement from someone who knows the child.

What makes a successful claim?

- Write about what your child actually needs (not just the support they already get). For example, he or she may require one-to-one support at all times at school and when outdoors, so write this even if, in reality, your child is not given much support at school and you are unable to provide constant supervision when he or she is playing outdoors.
- The most important factor for DLA is time. You need to write in detail about the extra time you spend on supporting your child with daily living and mobility tasks. This will give you more chance of making a successful claim for DLA.
- The second piece of advice is (as previously stated) get advice from someone who regularly completes DLA forms. There is a Facebook group called DLA for children, advice and support which has a community of parents/carers that offer advice and support.
- Write about the worst days.



What makes a successful claim?

- Do not water it down - you need to stress your case as clearly as possible. Remember, although it can be distressing to write about the difficulties your son or daughter faces, there is likely to be a positive outcome. Financial support can be used to help him or her develop become more independent, and have social opportunities. It is also your child's right to make a claim.
- Remember to get dad's perspective, or anyone else who regularly looks after your child as they may do things differently to yourself that may still work in favor of your child's claim.
- Keep in mind, however, that if your child's behavior and needs fluctuate it is important to mention this on the form to give a balanced overall picture to the decision maker.

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