

DLA- A Guide



FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX)

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE

You can claim DLA to help with the extra costs you have because of your child's health condition or disability. If your child is aged 16 or over and is not currently receiving DLA, they will have to claim Personal Independence Payment (PIP) instead.

You can claim DLA for a child as long as you look after them as if you are their parent. 'Parent' includes step-parents, guardians, grandparents, foster-parents, and even older brothers or sisters

If your child has been diagnosed as terminally ill, there is a simpler and quicker fast-track process you can go through. Please call the DWP Disability Living Allowance helpline on Telephone: 0800 121 4600.

What is DLA?

DLA is a tax free benefit which isn't means tested, so it doesn't matter how much you earn or how much savings you have.

It does not impact upon other benefits you may be receiving and it may help you qualify for other benefits (such as Carer's allowance) and/or tax credits.

Are you eligible?

You can get DLA if your child:

- needs significantly more care, attention or supervision than a child of the same age who doesn't have a disability (physical or mental) or health condition. **Your child does not need to have an actual diagnosis.**
- they must have needed this care, attention or supervision for at least three months, and be likely to need this care, attention or supervision for a further six months (you can make the claim before the three months have passed, but you will not receive any payment until they have)
- has difficulty walking or getting around outdoors in unfamiliar places
- they must meet the residence and presence conditions, in that they must have no immigration conditions attached to their stay in the UK subject to some exceptions

There are two components of DLA:

Mobility component

This can be paid at a lower or higher rate. Age restrictions apply; the higher rate cannot be paid until the child is three years of age and the lower rate cannot be paid until the child is five years of age

Care Component

Which can be paid at a lower, middle or higher rate. There are no age restrictions associated with this.

How much is it worth?

Weekly Rate	Lower	Middle	Higher
Care component	£23.20	£58.70	£87.65
Mobility component	£23.20		£61.20

Rates correct as at April 2019

Getting an Application form

You can either phone for an application form or download one.

It's best to phone because your payments will be backdated to the date you phoned. If you download an application form, you'll only be paid from the date that the DWP receives the form.

Disability Living Allowance helpline

Telephone: 0800 121 4600

Textphone: 0800 121 4523

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Calls to these numbers are free.

You can download an application form from GOV.UK .

Hints and tips

Keep a diary:

keep a diary of your child's needs/condition for a minimum of a week, you may wish to keep a diary for a longer period of time to reflect the whole extent of your child's condition. Write down your child's difficulties; sleeping, eating, walking, safety when out etc. along with the extra care/help needed – be sure to include all the help you give and how long it takes.

Contact (formally Contact a Family) suggest when filling in the form, tick any of the boxes which apply to your child, even if it doesn't apply all the time. You can explain more about any variation in needs in the boxes below each set of tick box questions and at question 65 about 'more information'.

Filling in the application form

There are specific things that the DWP will be looking for when they make a decision on your claim - so it's important that you fill in the form as best you can.

Send your application form

It's a good idea to make a copy of your filled-in application form and any other documents you send. This will be useful in case you need to refer to it later, for example if you need to reapply for DLA after a few years.

Send the form to:

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

If you're waiting for something like a letter from your doctor, you should still send the form before the 6 week deadline. Include a letter saying you'll send more evidence and give them an approximate date for when you'll send it. If you send the form late you'll only get paid from when the DWP receives it.

What happens next?

Acknowledging receipt of your application form:

Within 2 weeks you will get a letter or text message from DWP explaining they have received your claim. You'll get a letter from DWP within 2 weeks saying they've received your claim. Contact the DLA helpline if you haven't received a letter after 2 weeks.

The decision:

You'll normally get a 'decision letter' within 3 months. The decision letter will tell you how much you'll get and for how long. If your claim isn't successful, the decision letter will outline the reasons why.

If you've been successful but you're not sure you've been given the correct rate, it's a good idea to call the **Contact** helpline on 0808 808 3555 to discuss it.

When your child turns 16 - moving to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

PIP is a disability benefit similar to DLA, but for people 16 and over.

You'll get a letter from the DWP shortly before your child's 16th birthday telling you about switching from DLA to PIP.

You'll need to fill in a new form and your child will need to go for an assessment - even if they didn't have an assessment for DLA.

Online factsheets and resources and Further Help:

Carers UK

<https://www.carersuk.org/images/Factsheets/DLA2018-19FINAL.pdf>

GOV.co.uk

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/788243/dla1a-child-print.pdf

Contact (formally Contact a Family)

DLA Factsheet: <https://www.carersuk.org/images/Factsheets/DLA2018-19FINAL.pdf>

Colchester Gateway

This Charity can offer advice and support with DLA and PIP applications

<http://colchestergatewayclubs.org/>