

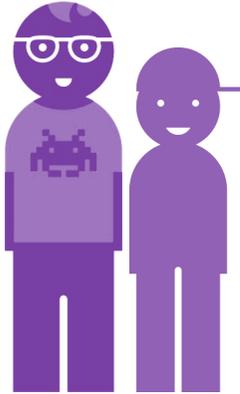
TERMINAL ILLNESS

For disability benefit claims, a terminal illness means one where your death can reasonably be expected within the next **six months**. Your doctor or specialist sends a special form to the DWP to confirm this and you do not need to complete the part of the form about care needs in detail. If your child is terminally ill, DLA can be paid from the first day of the claim.

DOES MY CHILD NEED ENOUGH EXTRA CARE?

If you have raised other children without disabilities, you can compare what you have to do for your disabled child with what was needed by the other children.

If not, talk to friends and family who have children of the same age, making average progress, to compare what they do with your routine. Professionals like **health visitors** and special needs co-ordinators in school may also be able to help.



EFFECT ON OTHER BENEFITS

A successful DLA claim for your child helps you qualify for other benefits and tax credits. If you did not get **Child Tax Credit (CTC)** before getting DLA for your child because your **income** was too high, check to see if you are entitled afterwards.

If you do get CTC, let the tax credit office know if your child gets DLA, as your tax credits should go up.

If you did not get CTC for your child, due to the changes introduced for children born after 6th April 2017, tell the Tax Credit Office as you will be due any tax credit **Disabled Child Elements** that apply to your child.

If your child gets DLA at the **middle** or **higher** rate for **care**, someone who spends at least **35 hours** per week looking after him/her may be able to claim **Carer's Allowance**. We have a leaflet on **benefits for carers**.

Claiming DLA for your child might also increase your **Housing Benefit** so always let the Council know. A child entitled to DLA at the **middle** or **highest** rate for care, who cannot share with their siblings due to their disability, is allowed a bedroom of their own for the **Bedroom Tax**.

You should not be affected by the **Benefit Cap** if you claim for a child who gets DLA.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our Citizens Advice Helpline: 03444 111 444

Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system
www.snsCab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold
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Guide to ...

Disability Living Allowance for children



LOTTERY FUNDED

WHAT IS DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)?

DLA is a benefit to help with the **extra costs** of having a long-lasting health problem or disability.

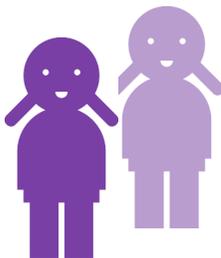
It is **not means-tested**, so it does not matter if you have savings, or what other money you have coming in. Although some disabled adults receive it, you can only make new claims for children aged **under 16**. When the child is 16, they will be told to claim **PIP (Personal Independence Payment)** instead.

QUALIFYING FOR DLA

To get DLA, your child must need extra help with care, have problems walking or both. Unless your child is terminally ill, these needs must have existed for at least **three months** before your claim starts and be expected to last for at least **six months** forward from your date of claim. There are **three** different payment rates for **care** and **two** for **mobility**.

DLA FOR MOBILITY

To get the lower rate for mobility, your child must be **aged 5 or over** and need **guidance or supervision** when outdoors in an **unfamiliar place**. The child must need much more guidance or supervision than a child of their age in normal health or with typical development would need.



To get DLA for **mobility** at the **higher rate**, your child must be aged **3 or over** and:



- Unable to walk.
- Virtually unable to walk.
- The effort of walking is dangerous to him/her.
- Without feet or legs.
- Be severely visually impaired.
- Be both blind and deaf.
- Be entitled to the highest rate for care and have exceptionally severe behavioural problems.

DLA FOR CARE

There is no lower age limit to claim DLA for care but, in all cases, the child's care needs must be much more than would be normal for a child of their age.

The DLA rules talk about **attention**, which is help with personal care, and **continual supervision**, which is watching over almost all of the time.

To get the **lowest rate** for care, your child must need extra care for at least an **hour a day**, either all at once or added together.

For the **middle rate**, extra care must be needed **several times** during the day. If extra care is needed **day and night**, your child should get the **higher rate**.



To get the **middle rate** for supervision, your child must need watching over throughout the day or someone must need to be **awake** and watching over the child more than once at night, or for more than about 20 minutes. If supervision at this level is needed day and night, you should get the **higher rate**. **Night** starts when the adults go to bed, not at children's bedtime.

HOW DO I CLAIM?

Call **0300 123 3356** for a claim form. As long as you return it within **six weeks**, your claim runs from the date of the call.

It is quite a long form and asks all about your child's health problems, treatment and the help they need. It can help a lot to keep a **detailed diary** for a few weeks before you fill in the form.

As well as noting basic things like the help your child gets to eat, drink, wash, and use the toilet, think about whether he needs more help **learning to talk**, or if she needs extra supervision to **play safely**, either alone or with other children.

Find more information on claiming DLA for a child from Disability Rights UK at www.disabilityrightsuk.org/disability-living-allowance-dla

