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MAYOR OF LONDON

What is Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children?

Disability Living Allowance is sometimes called DLA.

It is the main government assistance or benefit you can get if you care for a disabled child under the age of 16.

It's paid directly into your bank account and can help you with the extra costs of caring for your disabled child.

Who can get Disability Living Allowance?

you can apply for DLA if your child has a disability, health condition or illness and is under 16.

It's important to know that:

- You do not need to wait for a diagnosis for your child to apply for DLA.
- DLA is not only for children with complex disabilities. You can claim DLA if your child has learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders, emotional and behavioural conditions or physical disabilities.
- You can claim DLA for your child from the age of three months, or from birth if your child has a terminal illness.
- You can claim DLA even if you are working, have savings or other money coming in.
- Only the immigration status of your child is looked at when you apply for DLA. Your immigration status as a parent or carer is not looked at

- DLA will not reduce your other benefits. It is paid on top of other benefits you receive like housing benefit, tax credits or Universal Credit for example.

What can I spend DLA payments on?

There are no rules about what you can spend DLA money on. It's up to you as long as it is used for the benefit of your disabled child.

You can use it to help pay for the extra costs of caring for a disabled child such as additional heating or food costs or specialist toys and other products.

Why is DLA important?

It can cost a lot more to care for a child with additional needs so DLA payments can make a huge difference to your family.

DLA can also help you get other types of financial help and benefits.

What do I need to do to get DLA for my child?

You need to fill in an application form.

You can find the form on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website.

But it is best to call the DWP on 0800 121 4600 and ask for the DLA form to be posted to you. Then the form will be stamped with the date of your phone call, and any DLA you get will be paid from that date. This is helpful because the form is long and can take time to fill in.

If you get stuck filling the form in, you can call Contact's helpline on 0808 808 3555 and we can try to put you in touch with someone near you who can help.

Visit Contact's website for more information about DLA, including tips for answering all the questions on the DLA form: www.contact.org.uk/dla