

# INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



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## Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

DLA is the main benefit in the UK for children with disabilities, and can be claimed for a child (up to 16 years old) with or without a diagnosis. It is not means tested so your current earnings or savings won't be taken into account when your child is assessed. In fact, if your child is awarded DLA it may mean that you are eligible for an increase in other benefits.

You will need to provide evidence that your child needs substantially more care, attention or supervision than other children of the same age without a disability or health condition.

There are two components: the CARE component and the MOBILITY component. The care component covers the need for extra care and attention, and is awarded at one of three levels: lowest, middle or higher care. The mobility component covers difficulties with walking, or difficulties getting around in unfamiliar areas and is awarded at the lower or higher level. The application form for DLA (DLA1A) can be downloaded from the government website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), or you can call the DLA helpline on 03457 123456. This is the suggested option as the helpline office will date-stamp the form on sending it out, which means the payments will be back-dated to this date if the application is successful.

There is a helpful guide produced by Contact a Family available from their website, and they have also produced an information guide called "Disability Living Allowance claiming the higher rate mobility component for children with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders" which is extremely helpful in explaining how to claim the higher rate if your child can physically walk but can't be allowed out unsupervised because of the effects of autism or a similar condition.

If your child is awarded the higher rate mobility allowance, they are automatically entitled to a 'blue badge' to help with parking, and access to the Motability scheme to help with car leasing. You may also get help with or exemption from road tax. The form is notoriously difficult to complete – take your time and read the questions carefully. Don't try to finish it all in one go! Include as much information as you can and ask for help if you feel you need it.

Liverpool / Halton / Knowsley / Sefton / Wirral: 0151 486 1788

St Helens: 01744 582172

Warrington: 01925 320863

[www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk](http://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk)

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## Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

This benefit replaces the Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64. When your child reaches 16, they will be invited by the DLA to apply for PIP; after this you will have 28 days in which to apply by phoning the PIP claim line. Adults who are at present receiving DLA will be invited to apply for PIP between now and September 2017. Once they have been invited to apply, you have 28 days in which to call the PIP claim line (otherwise their DLA payments will be stopped). During the process, DLA will continue to be paid until a decision is made. The claim line can be contacted on 0800 917 2222 (new claims) or 0345 850 3322 (ongoing claims). The PIP application process is different to the DLA process, as it is a points system. There are only 2 components: daily living activities and mobility. Both are independently awarded at either standard rate (8 points) or enhanced rate (12 points).

The person being assessed is usually invited to answer some questions over the phone, and then a paper questionnaire is sent out. They will also probably be invited to a face to face appointment with a health care practitioner appointed by the local authority, appointed by the DWP. The questionnaire is quite different to the DLA form, and it is advisable to get help to complete it from an agency like the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Mobility is split into two aspects: *'planning and following journeys'* and *'moving around'* the points from assessment of the two aspects are combined in deciding if a mobility allowance will be given, and at what rate. If the enhanced rate mobility allowance is awarded you are automatically entitled to a 'blue badge' to help with parking, and access to the Motability scheme to help with car leasing. You may also get help with or exemption from road tax.

This can all seem alarming and it often helps to talk this through with other people who have been through this process. Our community network groups and solution-focused drop-in sessions are good places to come with any concerns or questions you may have. Contact a Family have an excellent *'Guide to Personal Independence Payment and other Benefits at 16'* available to download at [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk) - helpline is 0808 808 3555.

If your claim is unsuccessful you can apply for a mandatory reconsideration. You will need to contact the DWP within one month, with the reasons that you disagree. If this is refused you

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have an opportunity to appeal within one month. If you apply late for either of these you will need to show good reason or your application won't be considered.

The Citizens Advice Bureau and other organisations are available to give advice and support. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – table of activities, descriptors and points:

[https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/Migrated\\_Documents/adviceguide/pip-9-table-of-activities-descriptors-and-points.pdf](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/Migrated_Documents/adviceguide/pip-9-table-of-activities-descriptors-and-points.pdf)

## The Family Fund

The Family Fund provide grants for a wide range of items, such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing and computers. They aim to support the most vulnerable families – those on low income and with children with disabilities or serious illnesses.

The Family Fund have all the information about who is eligible for a grant and how to apply on their website: [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk) or you can call them on 01904 621115.

## Useful Contacts

Cerebra: 01267 244 200 – [info@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:info@cerebra.org.uk)

Citizens Advice Bureau: - 08448 269 694

Contact a family: 0808 808 3555 – [info@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:info@cafamily.org.uk)

Family Fund: 01904 621115 - <http://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Government publications: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/)

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