

Terminal Illness

If your child is terminally ill, DLA can be paid from the first day of the claim. A terminal illness is one where your death can reasonably be expected within the year.

Your doctor or specialist sends a form to the DWP to confirm this and you do not need to complete the part of the form about care needs in detail.

Does my child need enough extra care to get DLA?

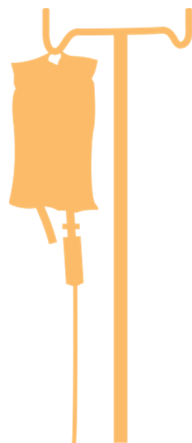
DLA is for children whose care and mobility needs are substantially greater than is typical for a child of their age.

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.

DLA and other benefits

A successful DLA claim for your child can help you qualify for other benefits and tax credits. If you get Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, it could increase if your child gets DLA, but you must let the council know. If you get Universal Credit, this can also go up.



If you get Child Tax Credit, let the tax credit office know if your child gets DLA, as your tax credits should go up. Even if you did not get CTC for this child due to the two-child limit, you will get the 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.

Claiming DLA for your child might also increase your Housing Benefit so let the Council know. A child entitled to DLA at the middle or highest rate for care, who cannot share a room with a sibling, is allowed their own bedroom when working out if the Bedroom Tax applies.

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

If you don't get any means-tested benefits, get a benefit check to see if you should.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848



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 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: search for **Potteries Gold**

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Disability Living Allowance for children

Benefits and Health no. 4



Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent

What is Disability Living Allowance?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit to help with the extra costs of **long-lasting health problems or disabilities**.

You can only make **new claims** for DLA for children aged under 16.

DLA is **not means-tested**, so it does not matter if you or your child have savings, or what other money you have coming in.

Qualifying for DLA

To get DLA, your child must need extra help with care or have problems walking, or both.

Unless your child is **terminally ill**, these needs must have existed for **three months** before your claim starts and be expected to last for at least **six months** 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.
- Get 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 usual 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 the child's bedtime.

How do I Claim?

Call **0800 121 4600** for a claim form.

As long as you return the form 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 they need more help **learning to talk**, or if they need **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

