

Disability Living Allowance for Children

Course Handout



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| COURSE DURATION: | 4 hours |
| CPD ACCREDITATION: | A047671 |
| CPD POINTS: | 4 points |
| LAST UPDATED: | 05/03/2025 |

DLA for Children

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DLA for Children – What is it?

- Any ill or disabled child may qualify, and you don't have to wait for a diagnosis to make a claim.
- Non-means tested benefit.
- DLA can sometimes lead to an increase in other benefits, or help families qualify for them if they don't already get them.



May help with the extra costs of looking after a child who:

- Is under 16.
- Has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability or condition.
- Needs help with the extra costs of bringing up a child with a disability.

DLA For Children: Eligibility

- Under 16 - anyone over 16 must apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP);
- Need extra looking after or have walking or mobility difficulties;
- Located in Great Britain, a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland when you claim - there are some exceptions, such as family members of the forces;
- Have lived in Great Britain for 2 of the last 3 years, if over 3 years old;
- Habitually resident in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands;
- Not subject to immigration control;
- Additional rulings on eligibility for refugee status.

The child's disability or health condition must mean at least one of the following apply:

- They need much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability
- They have difficulty getting about
- Your child must have been disabled or had the condition for at least 3 months, and you must expect it to last for 6 more.

DLA For Children: Rates 2025 - 2026

| Care Component | How much (weekly)? |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Higher Rate | £110.40 |
| Middle Rate | £73.90 |
| Lower Rate | £29.20 |
| Mobility Component | How much (weekly)? |
| Higher Rate | £77.05 |
| Lower Rate | £29.20 |

Completing the form:

- Keep a diary of your child's care needs can help you answer the questions.
- You should try to fill in the form over a few sessions rather than doing it all at once.
- Get support from a welfare benefits adviser.
- Don't just use the tick boxes on the form; give as much information as you can and give examples.
- Focus on the care they need because of their disability rather than the care they need because of their age.
- You can completely omit a question if preferred (e.g., do not tick yes or no) particularly with the 'hobbies and interests' question.
- It is very easy to contradict other areas outlined on the form- For example, if a parent has said that their child cannot walk, but then later discuss the help he needs to get onto his trampoline.

Notes:

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