

Disability Access Fund

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) helps providers to make reasonable adjustments in their settings, either to support an individual child, or for the benefit of all children attending the setting.

A child will be eligible if they are in receipt of child disability living allowance and are receiving free early education for 3 and 4 year olds. Please note: children will not be eligible if they are in a primary school reception class.

If a setting has eligible children they will be entitled to receive one payment of £615 per child each financial year. If the child attends more than one setting only the main setting will receive the payment. The child's parents will choose which setting will receive the funding and this will be recorded on the parental declaration form.

If a child moves settings within the financial year the new setting will not be eligible to receive a payment until the next financial year.

How to claim

Settings and schools will be expected to submit evidence of the child's DLA eligibility. This is usually a benefits award letter from the DWP, sent to parents, naming the child for whom the benefit is paid.

First claim – autumn term 2017

As an interim measure for the autumn term, providers should submit:

- a completed DAF application form
- a copy of the Parental Declaration Form for any child where DAF is to be claimed
- a copy of the Disability Living Allowance benefit award letter from the DWP.

These documents should be forwarded to our Early Years Team by email to

pamela.nield@togetherforchildren.org.uk

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Information for Parents About the Disability Access Fund - this information is for Parents of Children Around Nursery Education Age (Age three- and four-years-old not yet in a reception class at school)

Q) What is Disability Access Fund (DAF)?

The DAF is a single payment of £615. This funding is allocated to your child's nursery or childminder and helps them to make reasonable adjustments in their settings, either to support your child individually, or for the benefit of all children attending the setting.

Q) How much DAF funding is allocated?

A lump sum of £615 is allocated directly to your child's provider of free early education for three- and four-year-olds. This covers both the universal and the extended entitlement.

Q) Who is eligible for a DAF payment?

Any child who successfully claims Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is eligible for a DAF payment. This one-off funding payment goes directly to your child's free early education provider. This can be either a child-minder, a private day care nursery, or a school nursery.

Q) Who can claim DAF?

Your child's early year's provider will need to make the claim and submit the application form. You will be required to complete the application form, sign it and provide a copy of the DLA benefits award letter that you received to confirm your child's eligibility for the benefit. If you know your child is in receipt of DLA and your nursery aged child's early years provider has not asked you if they can apply for DAF funding on your behalf then you can ask them to do so.

Q) My husband/partner and I both work. Is the Disability Access Fund means tested?

No, the only eligibility criteria is:

- that your child is attending an early years childminder, day-care nursery or school nursery for their free entitlement for three and four year olds
- your child is eligible for DLA.

Q) My child attends nursery for the extended entitlement. Will they receive additional funding for the extra hours they attend?

No, this is a one off payment. The funding remains the same at £615 no matter how many hours your child spends with a provider.

Q) What will happen if my child moves to a different provider during the year?

The funding is a one-off lump sum. If your child moves settings within the financial year the new setting will not be eligible to receive a payment until the next financial year.

Q) My child attends two providers for their free hours. Are they required to share the DAF payment of £615?

No, the place your child goes to for their universal 15 hours is the place that you need to allocate the DAF funding to as the universal hours are not stopped if your circumstances change. If your child attends more than one provider for their free universal hours then parents are asked to nominate which provider they wish to receive the funding.

Q) Will the funding need to be returned if my circumstances change?

No, the £615 will not be withdrawn if your or your child's circumstances change.

Q) Do I have to apply for this funding?

No, it is not a requirement for you to apply for the funding. However, the £615 is allocated to help your early year's provider to make reasonable adjustments so they can better meet your child's special educational needs. Therefore, it is in your child's best interest that you make an application.