



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Benefits for Children with Disabilities

A brief guide for children aged 0 -16

Community
Legal Service



Specialist Help
Welfare Benefits

Contact us if you would like further copies of this publication, or you need the information in a different language or format:

Communications Team, Children and Young People's Department, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

phone (0115) 977 3294

e-mail communications.cyp@nottscc.gov.uk

website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

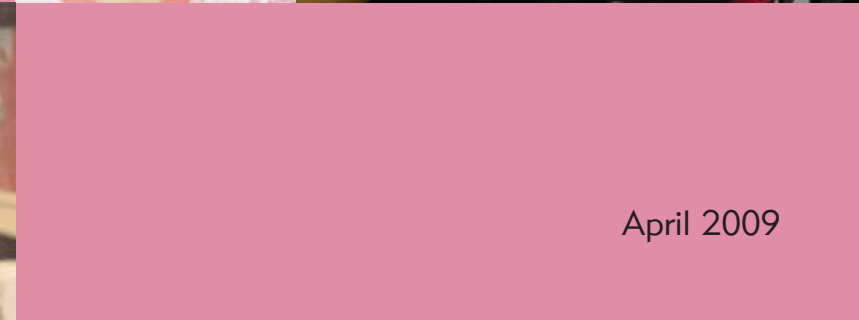
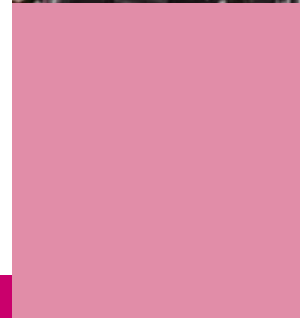
Published by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Welfare Rights Service

Printed by Design Publications & Print

Design and layout by CYP Communications Team

Photos from John Birdsall/PA

Ref: EDCOM 2723



April 2009





Introduction

There are a number of benefits a parent, grandparent or carer may be able to claim on behalf of their child with disabilities. This leaflet gives a brief introduction to what is available.

For more detailed information contact your local advice centre (see page 11).



Disability Living Allowance

This is a benefit for people with disabilities who have needed help for three months and who will require help for at least a further six months. It is paid on top of most other benefits and is not affected by any income or savings you or your child may have. It may also entitle you to extra amounts of other benefits such as Income Support, Housing and Council Tax Benefit or Tax Credits.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is made up of two parts:

Care Component (paid at three rates)

This can be claimed for a baby or child who requires extra help with personal care – for example, things like washing, dressing, using the toilet, or communicating (such as using sign language). It can also be paid for a child who needs someone to be with them in order to stop them hurting themselves or other people. Deaf or visually impaired children can also qualify for the allowance.

To qualify, a child under 16 will have to show that they require a lot more help or supervision than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. There are special rules for children who are terminally ill.

Mobility Component (paid at two rates)

This is for a child over three who is unable to walk, or has difficulty walking because of their disability. It is also possible for children over 5 to qualify if they **can** walk but need someone with them to ensure they are safe or to help them find their way around. This must be extra help or supervision that other children of the same age would not require.

How to claim DLA

Contact the Benefit Enquiry Line for people with disabilities on **0800 88 22 00** (textphone - **0800 24 33 55**) to request a claim pack. There is a special claim pack for under 16s – ask for **form DLA1(child)**. As the form is rather long and complicated you may need help with filling it in. See the end of this leaflet to find out where your nearest advice agency is located.

Carer's Allowance

This benefit is paid if you:

- care for a child (or adult) with an illness or disability who receives the care component of Disability Living Allowance at the higher or middle rate
- care for them for 35 hours a week or more
- are aged over 16
- are not in full-time education
- take home less than £95 a week from any work you do from October 2008

Carer's Allowance counts in full for Income Support, Income Related Employment & Support Allowance (IRESA), Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA), Pension Credit, Housing or Council Tax Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, but you should still be better off because the carer premium or element will be added to your benefits.

Note that if you are on Income Support, IRESA, or the guarantee credit of Pension Credit you will automatically get your 'maximum' Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

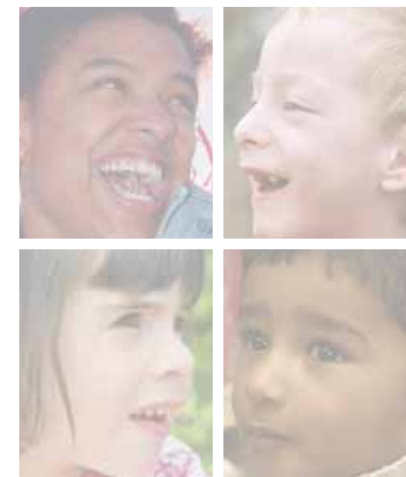
Claim on **form DS700** - available by calling the Benefit Enquiry Line on **0800 88 22 00** (textphone - **0800 24 33 55**) or from your local Jobcentre Plus office.

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

The amount of Child Tax Credit (CTC) you receive will depend upon the number of children you have and your income. If you are claiming Child Tax Credit and you have a child or children with a disability, entitled to Disability Living Allowance or registered blind, you will receive an increase in your benefit. This increase is called the disability element. If your child receives the highest rate of the care component you may also qualify for the severe disability element. Let the Revenue and Customs know when DLA has been awarded. These elements will still apply if DLA stops because your child is in hospital.

If you are not in receipt of Child Tax Credit at the moment but your child gets Disability Living Allowance you may become entitled for the first time when these "elements" are included in the calculation of your benefit. If in doubt put in a claim for Child Tax Credit or seek advice. For details of how to claim CTC see page 7.

You may also qualify for more help with paying your rent or Council Tax if your child receives Disability Living Allowance. Contact your District Council for more details.



Working Tax Credit

This is a benefit for people who work 16 hours a week or more and have a low to moderate income. You may qualify if you:

- have a child
- have a long term illness or disability or
- are over 50 and have recently come off benefits to start work.

If none of these apply you may still be able to claim if you are 25 or over and you work 30 hours or more a week.

The amount you receive depends on your circumstances, the hours you work and your income in the last or current tax year.

Help with Childcare

You can sometimes get help with child care costs if you are claiming Working Tax Credit (WTC) and/or Housing or Council Tax benefit. For WTC the childcare element can be up to £175 a week for one child or £300 a week for two or more children if:

- you are a lone parent working 16 hours a week or more or
- a couple who both work (16 hours+ each) or
- a couple where one works and the other is incapacitated.

Where a child is on DLA or registered blind this is available up to the September following their 16th birthday.

For Housing and Council Tax Benefit an allowance of up to £175 a week for one child and £300 a week for two or more children can be deducted from your earnings to cover childcare costs if you fulfil the same requirements in terms of hours worked as described above. Contact your District Council for more details.

How to claim Tax Credits

Both Tax Credits are claimed on **form TC600**. For a claim form call **0845 300 3900** or (textphone - **0845 300 3909** or visit the Revenue & Customs website at www.hmrc.gov.uk

Family Fund Trust

This is a Government funded charity that provides money to buy equipment or services for children with severe disabilities. For more information write to: The Family Fund, Unit 4, Alpha Court, Monks Cross Drive, Huntingdon, York YO32 9WN or telephone **0845 130 4542**.

Other help available

Free school meals and milk

Free school meals are available for children whose parents receive Income Support, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, the guarantee credit of Pension Credit or Child Tax Credit (with **no** Working Tax Credit) and with a gross annual income of £16,040 or less (your Tax Credit award letter will tell you your gross annual income).

Free milk is available to all children under 5 at school or in daycare for more than 2 hours a week. If your child attends a special school this age limit does not apply. Contact your local education office for more details.



Direct Payments from Nottinghamshire County Council

A Direct Payment is money that can be offered to people who care for a disabled child that has been assessed as needing community care services. The payments allows a parent or carer to employ someone to help with the care and support they provide at home for their child instead of it being provided by the Adult Social Care & Health Department.

For more information contact:

Direct Payments Support Service
Telephone: **0845 601 4261** or **(0115) 978 5400**

The National Centre for Independent Living, 250 Kennington Lane, London. SE11 5RD Telephone: **0207 587 1663**

Healthy Start

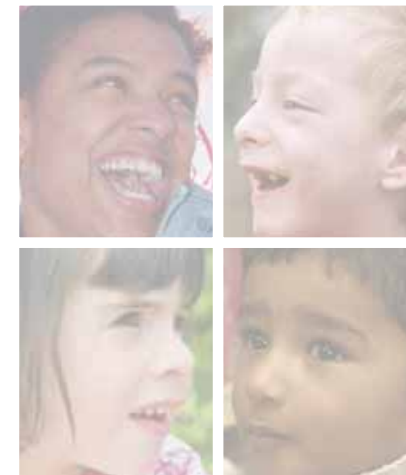
Vouchers are available to expectant mothers or families with a child under the age of 4 who receive Income Support, Income Related Employment & Support Allowance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, guarantee credit of Pension Credit, or Child Tax Credit where gross income is less than £16,040 and there is no entitlement to Working Tax Credit. The vouchers can be used to buy or put towards the cost of milk, fresh fruit, vegetables and infant formula. All women under 18 years of age (whether on benefits or not) who are pregnant or have children under 4 years old come under this scheme.

Free NHS prescriptions

These are available for:

- children under the age of 16
- young people under 19 and still in full-time education
- 16 and 17 year olds financially maintained by the local authority after being in local authority care on or after 1st October 2001
- people on a low income
- people who have certain medical conditions or

- people who are on Income Support Income Related Employment & Support Allowance, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, or CTC, WTC and CTC, or WTC including a disability element, and your gross annual income does not exceed £16,040. See **form HC11** for more details.



Free NHS dental treatment

For children under 18, or 19 if still in full-time education. Other eligible groups as for prescriptions.

Free NHS sight tests and vouchers for glasses

- For children under 16, or under 19 and in full-time education.
- For adults registered blind or partially sighted, or in need of complex or powerful lenses.
- Other eligible groups as for free NHS prescriptions.

NHS travel costs

- Available to people who receive Income Support, Income Related Employment & Support Allowance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, the guarantee credit of Pension Credit and some people who receive Tax Credits. This applies where you or your partner receive Child Tax Credit (CTC), CTC and WTC or WTC with a disability element, and your gross annual income is not more than £16,040 (your award letter will tell you if you qualify).
- 16 and 17 year olds who are financially maintained by the local authority after being in local authority care on or after 1st October 2001 also qualify.

For further information contact the hospital General Office when you next visit the hospital. Also see NWRS leaflet *Help with Fares to Hospital* for more details.

Help with travel costs to visit your child in hospital

If you are getting Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit you may be able to get a grant from the Social Fund to help pay the cost of travelling to hospital to see your child. Claim on **form SF300**, available from your local JobcentrePlus office.

Parking Badge

A disabled parking permit (Blue Badge) issued by the County Council. A badge will be issued if you or your child:

- receive the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance at the highest rate or
- are registered blind or
- have a substantial disability which causes an inability to walk or have considerable difficulty in walking.
- On account of their condition either must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment (such as a ventilator or feeding pump) which cannot be carried around with the child without great difficulty or:
- Always be kept near a motor vehicle so that if necessary treatment for that condition can be given in the vehicle or the child can be taken quickly to a place where such treatment can be given.

Children are eligible for this from age 2 years. Telephone the County Council on 08449 80 80 80 or download a claim form from www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Special Access Scheme

Allows a disabled person to park in restricted town centre parking zones. Permits are issued by the County Council. Telephone the County Council on **(01623) 434 942** for an application form.

Exemption from Road Tax

For people claiming the highest rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance. Parents can qualify for this exemption on their car if their child gets the mobility component but the vehicle must be used 'for the purposes of the disabled person'.

Motability

Government funded charity, which may assist a person receiving the Disability Living Allowance highest rate mobility component to purchase a new or used car.

Council Tax reduction

If your home has been adapted to meet the needs of your disabled child you may have to pay less Council Tax. This reduction is not dependent on your income or savings. Contact your District Council for details.

TV Licence reduction

If your child is registered blind you may receive a 50% reduction on your TV licence if you transfer the licence to the child's name.

Advice and Information

If you require further information on any benefits for disabled people you can contact the Department for Work and Pensions Benefits Enquiry Line for disabled people and their carers on **0800 88 22 00** or your local advice centre.

To find out where your nearest advice agency is located contact the **Nottinghamshire Welfare Rights Service**:

Telephone: **(0115) 977 4018**

E-mail: welfare.rights@nottscc.gov.uk

Web: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/benefitsadvice