



# Disability Living Allowance (DLA) form filling tips for children with a sight impairment.

If you assist your child with 'seeing' by acting as their 'eyes' this can count as attention for Disability Living Allowance. The assistance may take the form of someone physically guiding your child or speaking instructions to them. It can also include someone reading to them or describing something.

Remember you must show that your child has additional needs above those of another child of their age who does not have a Sight Impairment.

## Care Component

### Does your child have difficulties communicating?

- Do they struggle to pick up on social clues and have difficulty learning social skills?
- Do you have to tell them how to behave appropriately, where other children would learn automatically?
- Do you spend a lot of time teaching your child social skills?
- Does it take longer for them to learn everyday tasks?

### When they are dressing do they need help with?

- Sorting and identifying clothes?
- Ensuring that clothes are clean?
- Ensuring that their clothes are colour co-ordinated?

- Ensuring that clothes are worn the correct way round?
- Fastening buttons, zips etc and putting on shoes?

### When they are in the bathroom do they need help with?

- Checking their face and hands are clean?
- Applying toothpaste to a brush?
- Ensuring there is no toothpaste on their face after brushing?
- Checking that their fingernails and toenails are clean?
- Ensuring hair is correctly groomed?
- Teenagers may need help with make up or shaving.

### If your child requires medical treatment do you help them with?

- Identifying and reading medicine containers?
- Measuring and preparing dosages?
- Administering medication?
- Monitoring a medical condition?
- Following a special diet?

## Does your child need help at school with?

- Learning to read, either large print or Braille?
- Do they have one to one support at school?
- What extra support do the school offer your child? This could be extra equipment or particular teaching methods or behaviour strategies.
- Does your child have any difficulty mixing with other children at school or following routines?
- Do they go to a special school?
- How does your child cope in the school playground?

## At mealtimes do you help your child with?

- Cutting up food?
- De-boning chicken, fish, chops, etc?
- Identifying where food is on their plate?
- Ensuring drinks are poured properly?
- Checking liquid levels in cups?
- Identifying food or drink spilt on clothes?
- Reading menus in canteens and restaurants?

## Leisure Activities?

- Does your child need help to use a television, do they need explanations of what is happening?
- Do they need help to access sports or hobbies?
- Do you spend extra time playing with your child, or do you play with them in a different way?

## Are there any other times when you help your child with 'seeing'? Perhaps with hobbies and interests

For example if your child enjoys playing football what extra support would they need to participate and what difficulties do they have joining in with other children who have no sight impairment?

## Mobility Component

To qualify for higher rate mobility component your child must be certified as severely sight impaired and, using appropriate corrective lenses if necessary, either:

- have a visual acuity of less than 3/60. (This means they can only read the top line of an eye test chart from 3 metres away); **or**
- if their visual acuity is more than 3/60, but less than 6/60 (this means that they can read only the top line of the eye test chart from 6 metres away) they must also have
  - a complete loss of your peripheral vision and
  - severely restricted central vision (this means no more than 10 degrees in diameter), sometimes called **tunnel vision**

If their sight is too poor to be measured in this way, for example they can only "count fingers", or only have light and dark perception, they will qualify. If their visual acuity is better than 6/60 they will not qualify, for example if their acuity is 6/36 or 6/18.

For Lower Mobility the award is based on whether they can walk safely in unfamiliar places. Young children would normally be accompanied in both familiar and unfamiliar places, so describe why they need more help than a similar aged child without a Sight Impairment. For older, more confident children who may feel safe in their own area, explain the difficulties they have in unfamiliar areas or new places.

**You may also want to consider the following points:**

- What help does your child receive at school. If they go on school trips do they have one to one support or close supervision? What strategies does the school have to support your child when out of doors?
- Can you let your child walk ahead of you safely or do they have to hold your hand?
- Do they have road safety awareness appropriate to their age? For example you wouldn't expect a five year old to cross the road by themselves but you would expect them to walk on the pavement safely and to be aware that cars are dangerous.
- Can they judge when it is safe to cross a road? This may be more relevant to older children, but if younger children have difficulty learning these skills that is also important.
- When outdoors does your child need someone to help guide them in unfamiliar areas? What about at night or in poor or artificial light? Do they have difficulties in bright sunlight or glare?
- When outdoors do you need to help your child with reading road and street signs, maps, timetables, bus numbers or destination boards?
- Does your child need help negotiating roadworks, potholes, steps and stairs, loose paving and kerb stones, etc?
- Do they need help avoiding bollards and pillars, lamp posts and bus stops, cars parked on pavements, overhanging branches, gates left open, dustbins or other pedestrians?

If you need further advice on claiming Disability Living Allowance you can find out where your nearest advice centre is located by contacting Nottinghamshire County Council on the contact details provided below or visit our benefit advice pages at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/benefitsadvice](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/benefitsadvice)

**Contact information:**

Phone: 0300 500 80 80  
Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm  
Saturday: 8am to 12 noon

Email: [enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)  
Minicom: 01623 434993

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.