

Are you aware of a child in receipt of disability living allowance? (DLA)

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

This fund is for the purpose of assisting children with SEND to access their early year funding entitlement. It will help providers to make changes to their provision to accommodate children with SEND.

The DAF is payable as a lump sum of £800 once a year per eligible child.

If a child is eligible for the DAF and is splitting their funding across two or more providers the parents will need to nominate the main setting where the local authority should make the DAF payment.

Eligibility for the Disability Access Fund

All three and four year olds will be eligible for the DAF if they are attending an early years setting that provides funded places, and meet the following criteria:

- The child is in receipt of child disability living allowance and;
- The child receives free early education.

DAF can be claimed in addition to Early Years Inclusion Funding.

(Please note that four year olds in school reception classes (F2) are not eligible for DAF funding).

Children do not have to take up their full entitlement of funded hours in order to receive the DAF. The funding can be claimed from the start of the term after the child turns three.

If a child receiving DAF moves from one setting to another within a financial year, the new setting is not eligible to receive DAF funding for this child within the same financial year. DAF funding received by the original setting will not be recouped.

In cases where a child who lives in one authority area attends a provider in a different local authority, the provider's local authority is responsible for funding the DAF for the child and eligibility checking.

DAF Expenditure:

- Providers should ensure that the DAF aids the access of the child with SEND to their early years place, for example by making reasonable adjustments to their setting and / or helping to build capacity, whether that is for the child in question or for the benefit of all children attending the setting.
- DAF may be used for staff training to support a child's specific need.

Intended reader – providers and professionals from other services.

Please note any applications through the inclusion funding process for either training or specialist equipment will consider, how DAF has been used.

The payment process for providers

All settings of three and four year-olds eligible for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £800 per year, i.e. it is paid once, then a further renewal application is required the following year if the child is still in the early years date of birth range. If the child is still eligible a further £800 will be paid to the child's current setting.

Providers will need to complete the application in the DAF module of the provider portal and upload evidence that the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (a copy of their letter from the DWP showing the dates that they will be in receipt of DLA) and a copy of the Parent Declaration form, showing that the parents have nominated them as the setting that they wish to claim DAF for their child. This is the process for the initial application, and the annual renewal.