

Information on:

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

New claims

You can only make a new claim for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) if you're claiming for a child under 16 - this is known as DLA for children. Anyone over 16 must apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) instead of DLA.

Existing claims

PIP is gradually replacing DLA for people aged 16 to 64, even for those with an indefinite or lifetime DLA award. Your DLA probably won't be affected until 2015 or later but there are exceptions. Use the PIP checker to find out if and when you're affected by PIP.

DLA is the main benefit for children under 16 with a condition or disability. It is made up of two parts:

Care component (consists of 3 payment levels)

You might get this part of DLA if you:

- need help with things like washing, dressing, eating, using the toilet or communicating your needs
- need supervision to avoid putting yourself or others in danger
- need someone with you when you're on dialysis
- can't prepare a cooked main meal

Mobility component (consists of 2 payment levels)

You might get this part of DLA if, when using your normal aid, you:

- can't walk
- can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort
- could become very ill if you try to walk

You might also get it if you:

- have no feet or legs
- are assessed as 100% blind and at least 80% deaf and you need someone with you when outdoors
- are severely mentally impaired with severe behavioural problems and get the highest rate of care for DLA
- need supervision most of the time when walking outdoors
- are certified as severely sight impaired and you were aged between 3 and 64 on 11 April 2011



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You can get Disability Living Allowance whether or not you work. It isn't usually affected by any savings or income you may have. The amount of DLA you receive depends on the level of help your child needs. The child may need an assessment to work out what they need. It usually takes 40 working days to deal with a DLA claim.

Claiming DLA

You can apply for DLA for children under 16:

- by post - using the DLA claim pack (the forms tell you where to send them) available from: <https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children/how-to-claim>
- [online](#)
- Call the Disability Living Allowance helpline

When claiming it is very important to put as much information as you can about your child's needs. Any information provided by a professional involved with your child's care may also help.

The form is very difficult - seek help from a local citizen's advice, carer's centre or other advice project. The Contact a Family helpline can put you in touch with local services which help with completing benefit forms and their website has [information](#) about specific rules which allow some children with learning difficulties or autistic spectrum disorders to qualify for the high rate mobility component.

Phone number: 0845 712 3456 Disability Allowance Helpline
0845 722 4433 Textphone
Opening Hours Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

Email address:

Address: Midlands Benefits Centre
PO Box 34
Birmingham
B99 1AR

Website: www.gov.uk

Contact a Family also has helpful information on their website:

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/know-your-rights/benefits-and-tax-credits/>



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