Introduction to Disability Living Allowance

DLA (Disability Living Allowance) is a tax- free benefit for children under 16 who are disabled and/or who have additional needs. After a child has turned 16 DLA turns to PIP payments. DLA is there to help families cover extra costs that may be incurred due to their child's needs/disability. Statistics show it costs three times more to raise a disabled child than a non-disabled child. DLA is NOT means tested; your income and savings are not relevant to your child being eligible.

When thinking about applying for DLA it is important to think about the additional care and support your child needs compared to those of other children their age, not whether your child has a diagnosis or what their diagnosis is. You do, however, need to provide good, strong evidence of the impact on your child's day-to-day living.

There are two parts to DLA: Care and Mobility. Your child can qualify for one or two of these components depending on their needs and the evidence. The current DLA rates at time of writing, are as follows:

CARE COMPONENT WEEKLY RATES	MOBILITY COMPONENT WEEKLY RATES
Lower £29.20 Middle £73.90 Higher £110.40 *There is not a set lower age limit for the carer's component.	Lower £29.20 Higher £77.05 *Higher rate can be paid from 3 years of age and lower rate can be paid from 5 years of age. If your child has a life-limiting condition, both DLA components can be payable from the age of 3 months.

The care component of DLA is for children that need extra support with day-to-day care, for example their personal care. For the lowest level rate, your child will need at least one extra hour of help per 24 hours. To qualify for the middle rate your child must require frequent help or constant supervision during the day and supervision at night. For the highest rate, your child will need help with both day and night care or be terminally ill.

The mobility component of DLA is designed to help your child if they have trouble getting around. For the lower rate your child must need lots of extra help in getting around and staying safe but they don't have to be physically disabled. When applying you need to be really specific about what the extra help your child requires is, for example if your child can only get around by car.

*The High rate criteria states your child must be…

- unable to walk
- virtually unable to walk
- the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to their life or would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in their health
- have no legs or feet (from birth or through amputation)
- severely mentally impaired and show extremely disruptive and dangerous behaviour
- or have a severe visual impairment; *or* be both blind and deaf and need the assistance of another person to walk out of doors.

**Taken from SkyBadger.co.uk*

Further information-

For your copy of a DLA application form:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-living-allowance-for-children-claim-form

For a step by step guide to filling out your child's DLA form:
https://cerebra.org.uk/download/disability-living-allowance-dla-guide/

https://skybadger.co.uk/2018/08/20/dla-form-a-step-by-step-guide/

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