

Disability Living Allowance (Under 16 years)

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Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for under 16 year olds

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children is a tax-free benefit which may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who:

- Is under 16.
- Has difficulties walking or needs more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability.

The child's disability or health condition

The child's disability or health condition must mean one or both of the following apply:

- They need more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability.
- They have difficulty getting about.

They must have had these difficulties for at least 3-months and expect them to last for at least 6-months. If they are terminally ill (i.e. not expected to live more than 6-months), they do not need to have had these difficulties for 3-months.

What you need to know

You can claim DLA for a child as long as you look after them as if you are their parent. 'Parent' includes step-parents, guardians, grandparents, foster-parents, and even older brothers or sisters.

DLA cannot be backdated. The date of your claim will usually be the date the form is received or the date you call the enquiry line (if you return the claim pack within 6-weeks). It usually takes 40-working days to deal with a DLA claim. The child may need an assessment to complete the application.

Terminal illness

There are special rules if the child is not expected to live more than 6-months, so they can get DLA more quickly. You must:

- Complete a DLA claim form.
- Ask a doctor or other healthcare professional for form DS1500 – they will either fill it in and give the form to you or send it directly to DWP.

Change of circumstances

Contact the Disability Service Centre as soon as the child's circumstances change. This can affect how much they get, for example if their disability gets worse or they go abroad for medical treatment.

Their DLA will not usually be affected if they go:

- Into a local authority care home for less than 28-days.
- Into a hospital.
- Abroad for less than 13-weeks.
- Abroad for less than 26-weeks to get medical treatment for a condition which began before they left.

DLA rates

DLA for children is made up of 2 components (parts), the 'care component' and the 'mobility component'. The child might qualify for one or both components.

How much DLA the child gets depends on the level of looking after they need.

The weekly rates for Disability Living Allowance from April 2020 to March 2021 are:

Care component	Weekly rate	Level of help needed
Lowest rate	£23.60	Help for some of the day or night.
Middle rate	£59.70	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they are on dialysis.
Highest rate	£89.15	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they are terminally ill.
Mobility component		
Lower rate	£23.60	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher rate	£62.25	They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they are blind, severely sight impaired

How DLA is paid

DLA is usually paid every 4-weeks and is paid into your bank, building society or credit union account. If you do not have one, you could get paid using a Post Office card account.

Extra help

You might qualify for Carer's Allowance if you spend at least 35-hours a week caring for a child who gets the middle or highest care rate of DLA (see our Carer's Allowance factsheet).

When your child turns 16

Your child will need to apply for Personal Independence Payment when they turn 16 years old (see our PIP factsheet).

When they apply for PIP

Your child will get a letter inviting them to apply for PIP. The letter will be sent:

- Shortly before their 16th birthday.
- When they leave hospital, if they were in hospital on their 16th birthday.
- About 20-weeks before their DLA award ends, if they were awarded DLA under the rules for people who are terminally ill.

Your child's DLA payments will stop unless they apply for PIP by the date given in the letter.

If they apply by the date given in the letter, they will continue to receive DLA until their claim is assessed.

For further information

Disability Service Centre (DLA) Children

For advice or information about a claim you have already made for DLA.

0800 121 4600

Textphone: 0800 121 4600

Disability Benefit Centre 4, Post Handling Site B, Wolverhampton WV99 1BY

CATCH UP Ltd.

For help completing forms including home service & appeals/tribunals

01554 776850/774570

CATCHUP@ctcww.org.uk

www.ctcww.org.uk/catchup-welfare-benefits-advice-service/

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

CAB Ammanford Office: 14 Iscennen Road, Ammanford SA18 3BG

CAB Carmarthen Office: 113 Lammas Street, Carmarthen SA31 3AP

CAB Llanelli Office: 4 Cowell Street, Llanelli SA15 1UU

03444 77 20 20 (appointments line)

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

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Carmarthenshire Carers Information Service

The Carers Information Service provides free and confidential information, advice, and support to Carers.

We produce and distribute information for carers and organise regular events in partnership with other organisations.

The service is joint funded by Carmarthenshire County Council and Hywel Dda University Health Board.

Contact details

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The Palms, Unit 3, 96 Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 2TH

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