

FAMILY GUIDES

Help if your child has additional needs



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Claim
Line.com**

INTRODUCTION

Help is available if your child has additional needs



A wide range of support

If you have a child living with additional needs, your local council could provide you support including:

- [short break services](#)
- holiday play schemes
- care at home
- some aids and adaptations
- financial help, eg money towards travel costs for hospital visits

Under [The Children Act 1989](#), your local council has a duty to offer these services listed above. However, it is important to note that although some of these services are free, your council may ask you to contribute to others.

If you think your child may qualify, you should [contact your local council's](#) social services team. When you have contacted them, they will talk through your needs including topics such as health, social care and education. This is known as a 'needs assessment' from which the social worker will offer you advice on what to do next.

You can also ask your local council for local support groups for carers and families with children who have additional needs.

Support with costs

If it is decided that your child does qualify for services from your local council, you will also have the option to receive [direct payments](#). These are paid directly to you so you can arrange services you need. They're an alternative to social care services provided by your local council. In addition, you may also be able to receive extra [Child Tax Credit](#) for each disabled child you are responsible for, you may also be able to receive [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) for children.

The DLA Scheme

DLA is a scheme designed to support you with looking after a child with additional needs, supporting with extra costs. [The rate](#) at which you could be supported with extra costs ranges between £24.45 a week to £156.90 and would be dependent upon your child's needs.

BETWEEN **£24.45** → **£156.90** PER WEEK

Making a claim

[You can make a claim for DLA](#) through the Disability Living Allowance helpline:

☎ Telephone: 0800 121 4600

☞ Textphone: 0800 121 4523

[Relay UK](#) (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone):

18001 then 0800 121 4600

British Sign Language (BSL) [video relay service](#) if you're on a computer - find out how to [use the service on mobile or tablet](#).
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Childcare

Within your local council there should be a [Family Information Service](#), this service should be able to provide you information about childcare in your local area. If your child requires further specialist services, the family information service should also be able to supply details on that too.

In the UK 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to [15 hours of free education](#) for 38 weeks of the year. For more information of financial support, [the Government provides more information here](#).

Direct payments may also be available to support you with your childcare costs. If you are working and have a child with additional needs you could receive up to £4,000 a year, to help you pay for childcare through [tax-free childcare](#).



Education

Every child is entitled to an [education](#) in the UK and schools should make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled children which includes:

- changes to physical features, eg adding a ramp
- changes to how learners are assessed
- providing extra support and aids, eg specialist teachers or equipment

CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Education (continued)

It is against the law under [The Equality Act 2010](#) for schools and other education providers to discriminate against disabled children. Some examples include but not limited to refusing to admit a child due to their disability or stopping a child from going outside at their break as it 'takes longer' to do so.

Some children with a disability may have [special educational needs](#) if their

condition affects their ability to learn. To understand the extra support your child may need with their education, you can ask your local council to conduct an [Education, health and care needs assessment](#) for your child. When concluded, they may get an [EHC plan](#), which will enable you to understand the support your child needs.

Your local council should ensure your child receives this support.

Mobility Scheme

The Government's [mobility scheme](#) is designed to help support you and your child's mobility needs. You may be eligible for the scheme if your child is:

- Over 3 years old
- Entitled to receive the higher rate of the mobility part of the [Disability Living Allowance](#)
- Entitled to receive the higher component of the [Personal Independence Payment](#)

Learn more about the scheme [here](#).

Home Adaptations

If due to your child's needs, your home needs adapting, you may be able to get support for the costs through the [Disabled Facilities Grant](#).

It is common practise that an occupational therapist will talk to you and come to an understanding of what adaptations your child needs. A disabled facilities grant will not affect any other benefits you are currently receiving.

