

# Disability Access Fund (DAF)



## Who is it for?

DAF was introduced to support disabled children's access to the entitlements for three and four year olds. Four year olds in reception classes are not eligible for Disability Access Funding.

During 2024 DAF eligibility was extended. A child will be eligible for the DAF if:

- the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and the child receives one of the following:
  - the universal 15 hours entitlement for three and four year olds **or**
  - the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged two year olds **or**
  - from April 2024, the 15 hours entitlement for children aged two years of working parents **or**
  - from September 2024, the 15 hours entitlement for children aged nine months to two years of working parents

Eligible children will be able to receive a one-off payment of £910 per year. This is an additional entitlement, not based on an hourly rate.

The lump sum can only be made to one setting, if a child moves during the financial year the funding remains with the original setting.

Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to receive the DAF. Children in receipt of the DAF will be eligible where they take-up any period of free entitlement.

### What can providers use the DAF funding for?

The DAF should be used by providers to make changes to their environment, to help support children with special educational needs and disabilities.

### Disability Living Allowance. What is it?

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is the main benefit for disabled children. It is there to help meet any extra costs incurred due to disability. DLA is not means tested so the parent's financial situation is not taken into account. DLA is also not taxable or treated as income for other benefits.

Any ill or disabled child may qualify; the parent does not have to wait for a diagnosis to make a claim. However, to make a successful claim for DLA you must show that the child needs substantially more care, attention, or supervision than other children of the same age who don't have a disability or health condition.

### How do I apply for DAF?

Once a childcare provider has identified that a child is eligible for DAF, they will signpost parents to take their DLA letter to one of the following sites:

- Tonge Family Hub
- Oldhams Start Well Centre
- Farnworth Family Hub
- Alexandra Family Hub
- Oxford Grove Family Hub
- Great Lever Family Hub
- Harvey Start Well Centre

The centre Admin will verify eligibility. Payments to the setting will then be arranged. After three terms, eligibility can be reconfirmed using this process.

### For more information...

Further information about DAF eligibility criteria and the application process can be found on the website:

Tel: **01204 338149**

[www.boltonstartwell/funding](http://www.boltonstartwell/funding)

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[www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk](http://www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk)

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