

## Disability Access Fund FAQs for Parents

### What is the Disability Access Fund (DAF)?

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is money that early year's providers can use to support children with disabilities.

The aim of the DAF is to help providers to make reasonable adjustments in their settings, either to support an individual child, or for the benefit of all children attending the setting.

It is a one-off payment that is given to any registered early years provider who is providing a funded early education place for any two, three or four year old who is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

An early year's provider/free early education provider/early years setting is:

- a nursery school
- a nursery class attached to an infant or primary school
- a day-care nursery
- a childminder

### How will I know if my child is eligible?

Two, three and four year olds are eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- your child receives child disability living allowance (DLA) **and**;
- your child receives two, three or four year old funded early education.

Please note: Four year olds in primary school reception classes are **NOT** eligible for DAF funding. Children become eligible for funded early education in the term following their relevant birthday.

If you think your child may be eligible for this additional funding, you should raise this with your early education provider. Your early years provider will be aware of this funding, and they will work with you to apply. You will need to provide evidence that your child receives DLA. This is usually the benefits award letter from DWP, sent to parents, naming the child for whom the benefit is paid.

## Who applies for DAF funding?

Your child's early years provider will apply for the funding; however, they will need your signature on the application form to show that you agree with the application. You will also be required to provide evidence that your child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

## Who does the DAF payment go to?

DAF funding is payable directly to your child's early education provider.

If your child is attending more than one provider for their early education entitlement, then you as a parent must declare which setting you would prefer to receive this funding. This declaration is on the funding application form.

## My child will be in nursery for five terms. Will the nursery only receive one DAF payment?

DAF funding is allocated only once in a 12-month period. A provider can apply for the funding at any point in the academic year. It may be that a child who attends a setting for five terms may receive two DAF payments. The provider would however need to reapply for the funding in the second year.

## Is there a particular time in an academic year that an application for DAF can be submitted?

No, your child's early years provider can apply for DAF funding once they are aware that a child is eligible. This may be at any point in the academic year.

## What can DAF be spent on?

The DAF will help providers to make reasonable adjustments in their settings, either to support the individual child, or for the benefit of all children attending the setting.

Your early years provider should work with you to decide how the funding will be used so that your child can fulfil their potential.

## What happens to the funding if I move my child to a different early year's provider?

If a child changes provider, the funding does not move with the child. The one-off DAF payment stays with the original provider, however the new provider may be able to submit an application for a payment 12 months after the first payment was made, if applicable.

If you have any further queries about this funding, please do not hesitate to contact the Childcare Team.

- Nicola Wardropper – Childcare Team Leader – [nicola.wardropper@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:nicola.wardropper@togetherforchildren.org.uk)
- Kaye Welsh – Childcare Development Officer – [kaye.welsh@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:kaye.welsh@togetherforchildren.org.uk)

- Beth Stockdale – Childcare Development Officer – [beth.stockdale@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:beth.stockdale@togetherforchildren.org.uk)
- Joanne Johnson – Childcare Development Officer – [joanne.johnson@togetherforchildren.org.uk](mailto:joanne.johnson@togetherforchildren.org.uk)