

Support and benefits for you and your disabled child



You should expect services to offer support and advice about benefits. Receiving the correct support and benefits are your right, so don't feel embarrassed. This factsheet is a very simplified summary and tries to alert you to *potential* entitlements. There are many other sources of support and financial assistance we couldn't include, so please see *Where to go for more help* at the bottom of this factsheet.

Circumstance	Benefits and Entitlements
<p>You are responsible for a child: the child is effectively an orphan:</p>	<p>Child benefit, child tax credit (CTC) Guardian's allowance</p>
<p>Your child is disabled and:</p> <p><i>needs help with personal care</i> <i>needs someone to make sure they are safe</i> <i>needs someone to monitor their health</i> <i>has difficulty walking</i> <i>needs help to keep safe when out and about</i> <i>you need help to make a claim</i></p>	<p>Disability Living Allowance (DLA) <i>(see Factsheet 9b for tips about claiming DLA)</i> <i>care component, disability living allowance</i> <i>care component, disability living allowance</i> <i>care component, disability living allowance</i> <i>mobility component, disability living allowance</i> <i>mobility component, disability living allowance</i> <i>Factsheet 'Tips for Claiming Disability Living Allowance'</i></p>
<p>You are caring for your child, your child gets at least middle rate DLA and:</p> <p><i>you earn less than £77 a week</i> <i>you get means tested benefits</i> <i>you need help to care for your child:</i></p> <p><i>you wish to organise this help yourself</i></p> <p><i>you need a break</i></p>	<p><i>Carer's allowance</i> <i>Carer's premium in means-tested benefits</i> <i>Carer's assessment and care plan setting out the services the local authority will provide</i> <i>Direct payments from Social Services to buy your own help, rather than have them organise this</i> <i>Carer's special grant</i></p>
<p>You do not have enough to live on and:</p> <p><i>are responsible for children</i> <i>a child gets DLA</i> <i>a child gets DLA at the high rate for care</i> <i>you don't work or work less than 16 hours a week and are entitled to carer's allowance</i></p> <p><i>work at least 16 hours a week, are a carer of a disabled child</i> <i>pay rent for where you live, are a carer and have a disabled child</i></p>	<p><i>Child Tax Credit (CTC)</i> <i>Disability element</i> <i>Severe disability element element</i> } <i>These are tax credit enhancements for disabled children</i> <i>Income Support (IS) including carer's premium</i> <i>Income-based jobseekers allowance, carer's premium</i></p> <p><i>Working Tax Credit (WTC)</i> <i>Housing Benefit including carer's premium, disabled child premium and enhanced disability premium</i></p>

<p>pay council tax</p> <p>You pay council tax and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. have an extra room in your house to meet your disabled child's needs (this must be suitable for a wheelchair user) or 2. your home is accessible for your child if they need to use a wheelchair indoors or 3. you have a second bathroom or kitchen needed by your child <p>there is only one adult in the household or the only other adults are certain carers</p>	<p>Council tax benefit</p> <p>disability reduction</p> <p>single person discount</p>
<p>You need help with your mortgage and:</p> <p>don't work, or work less than 16 hours are signing on and looking for work</p>	<p>IS Income based job seeker's allowance</p>
<p>You get other income related benefits or tax credits; you have needs hard to meet out of your regular income and:</p> <p>have just had a baby are responsible for a funeral have one-off household expenses (like household appliances, bedding or clothing) need fares to visit someone in hospital have an emergency or disaster need help with NHS costs</p>	<p>sure start maternity grant funeral payment community care grant, budgeting loan community care grant crisis loan health benefits</p>
<p>Your child is severely disabled and:</p> <p>you need help to pay for holidays and days out, household appliances, bedding, clothing, toys, equipment or driving lessons.</p>	<p>The Family Fund</p>
<p>Your child gets high rate mobility component of DLA and you need help to:</p> <p>meet the costs of running a car, buy or lease a car or wheelchair park close to your destination</p>	<p>exemption from road tax Motability Blue badge</p>
<p>Your child needs extra help at school and:</p> <p>these needs can be met within a mainstream school's budget with the help of outside agencies these needs cannot be met by a mainstream school within their own resources</p>	<p>support through School Action support through School Action Plus support through a Statement of Special Educational Needs</p>
<p>Your child needs help at home, or to join in leisure activities or have a break:</p> <p>you wish to buy in this help for your child</p>	<p>Community Care Assessment. A care plan saying what services the local authority will provide and how. direct payments from social services to buy your child's social care, rather than have social services organise this.</p>

The benefits and entitlements referred to here are potential entitlements. You should seek independent advice before making a claim. With thanks to Disability Alliance for the use of this table, modified from their guide 'Don't Miss Out'.

Where to go for more help

Don't Miss Out!: An easy to follow guide to claiming benefits for families of disabled children. Contains case studies including, how benefits are affected if your child is away at school, in hospital or subject to a care order, what happens when your child reaches 16 and what to do when things go wrong. Contact **Disability Alliance** on 020 7247 8776. Disability Alliance also publish *The Disability Rights Handbook: a comprehensive guide to benefits and entitlements*.

The **Family Fund** may provide help with one-off expenses. Tel: 0845 130 4542 or visit: www.familyfundtrust.org.uk

Contact a Family can provide more comprehensive and detailed information. See: *An Introduction to Benefits and other Financial Help* and a guide to *Assessments and Services in England and Wales*: www.cafamily.org.uk, freephone helpline: 0808 808 3555 (Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm)

A Parent's Guide to Direct Payments: DoH Publications: Tel: 08701 555 455.
Motability Tel: 01279 635 666.

Extra help at home: your Local Authority, children's disability service

Special Educational Needs Code of Practice DfES Tel: 0870 000 2288

Advisory Centre For Education Advice Line Tel: 0808 800 5793

The Tax Credit Helpline: 0845 300 3900



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