

Contact the Every Pound Counts service which can:

- give you free, clear advice about the different benefits you can claim
- calculate how much extra money you may be able to claim
- help you fill in claim forms, including the DLA claim form
- help you to claim other benefits that you are entitled to
- help you challenge decisions if you have been turned down
- tell you what will happen to your benefits if your circumstances are about to change.

Who this service is for:

- People aged 60 and over
- People experiencing long term ill health
- Disabled people
- Carers
- Families who care for a child who has significant additional support needs because of ill health, disability or developmental delay.

Example

Sarah is a single parent with two children. She works 20 hours a week and gets Tax Credits. She contacted the Every Pound Counts Advice Service because her youngest son James, aged 7, gets extra help at school because he has poor attention and is easily distracted. The adviser helped her complete the DLA claim forms and explained what rate of benefit should be awarded.

Sarah now gets DLA for James. She receives the middle rate care component paid at £44.85 weekly and the lower rate mobility component at £17.75. Because she receives DLA her Child Tax Credit was increased. She now gets an extra £48.71 Child Tax Credit each week. She now receives over £111 extra each week in additional benefit income.

Contact us now for free benefits advice

Contact Every Pound Counts to talk to an experienced benefits adviser or make an appointment to receive face to face advice.

Tel: 020 7926 5555

Email everypoundcounts@lambeth.gov.uk

Visit www.lambeth.gov.uk/everypoundcounts

You can also write to us at: Every Pound Counts, Customer and Community Relations, Lambeth Adults' and Community Services, Phoenix House, 10 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LL

Welfare Benefits Advice: Extra Money for Children with Additional Care Needs

Every Pound Counts

In Lambeth, carers of children with additional care needs are missing out on extra cash because they do not claim benefits they are entitled to. If you care for a child who has special support needs read this leaflet to find out more about the benefits you can claim.

Lambeth Council is working in partnership with Lambeth Primary Care Trust and local advice agencies to give advice on benefits and tax credits to help people claim their full benefit entitlement.

What financial help can I get?

If your child or children suffer from long term ill health, a disability or developmental problems (including emotional and behavioural problems or learning difficulties), you may be able to claim a benefit called Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

If you already get this benefit you may be entitled to a higher rate or to other benefits.

If you get DLA, you can often claim other additional benefits, such as Carers Allowance and extra premiums in your Child Tax Credit, Housing and Council Tax Benefit awards. DLA is always worth claiming because it makes a big difference to your weekly income. There are no restrictions on who can claim (other than for people who are not UK nationals).

DLA is paid on top of any other income you may have. The amount of income or savings you have does not affect whether you can claim DLA. You can claim whether you are working or not.





Are you receiving all the benefits you can claim?

Can I claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for my child?

To get DLA for your child you will need to show that your child needs a higher level of supervision and/or care than other children of their age because of health problems or disability.

The extra care can be because they have problems getting around or need extra help with their personal care.

They may qualify because they need special support services such as special educational support.

They may qualify because they need closer supervision than other children of their age to make sure they are safe, for example because they have behavioural problems or act impulsively, or to monitor health problems.

They may qualify because they need more help than other children of their age to complete daily tasks such as getting washed/dressed, using the toilet, eating or drinking, communicating with others or developing new skills.

This help can include prompting or encouragement or support to

make sure they have performed tasks satisfactorily.

How much will I get?

DLA is made up of two components **care** and **mobility**. Your child may be entitled to both or only one of these. How much you will receive will depend on how much support your child needs and the level and type of additional supervision or care needed. The highest award is worth over £100 per week and the lowest just under £20 per week.

Help from the care component:

This can be awarded at one of three levels of payment to children aged 3 months or older. The level awarded should reflect how much extra care or supervision your child needs. The highest amount is awarded for children who need extra care or supervision both during the day and night. The middle level is awarded to children who need the extra care or supervision either just during the day or at night. The lowest level is awarded to children who need extra care but not so frequently.

Help from the mobility component:

This can be awarded at one of two levels of payment to children who need extra help getting around outside.

Help with mobility costs (high rate):

You may be able to get the highest rate if your child is aged 3 years or older and their mobility is severely restricted. This includes children whose walking ability is severely restricted because of extremely disruptive behavioural problems, as well as children whose walking ability is severely impaired by physical disabilities.

Help with mobility costs (low rate):

If your child is aged 5 years or older you may be able to get the lower rate if your child needs more supervision or care than other children of their age when outdoors in unfamiliar places; for example because they have behavioural problems or act impulsively.

How do I claim DLA for my child?

You will need to complete a claim form which asks you to explain in detail the extra support your child needs.

To request a claim form: Contact the Benefits Enquiry Line on freephone **0800 882 200**. They will send you the date stamped claim form (called DLA1AChild). When completing the form it is helpful to give details of any health or education assessments that your child may have had. You also need to describe the differences in the care and help you give your child compared to other children of their age.

What other help can I get?

None of the benefits or tax credits you are getting will go down because you get DLA for your child. In fact they may go up or you may become entitled to other additional benefits.

Claiming DLA for your child will always increase your family income.

Parents can find it difficult to work out what benefits they can claim and to complete the forms. Contact the Every Pound Counts Service who can help you complete claim forms and tell you how much extra benefit should be awarded.

Call Every Pound Counts on 020 7926 5555 for more information.