



Parent comments:



My little boy is sensory seeking. He requires sensory breaks throughout the day. DAF funding was used to buy a blackout tent and sensory lights and equipment, which has made his time at nursery so much more enjoyable.



In the nursery where my child attends, there are two children in receipt of DAF funding. This has meant the nursery could employ a part time member of staff to support both children.



DAF funding has meant the childminder could buy specialist toys for my little girl, which has helped her settle and enjoy her time with her, as well as making progress.



Useful contacts for support :

- ▶ DLA Support: skybadger.co.uk
- ▶ DLA Support: **0808 808 3555**
- ▶ Leicestershire Local Offer: leicestershire.gov.uk/SEND
- ▶ Leicestershire Early Years: leicestershire.gov.uk/pre-school-help
- ▶ Leicestershire Children and Family Wellbeing Service: leicestershire.gov.uk/children-family-wellbeing

Contact us:

Early Years SEND Inclusion Team

County Hall
Glenfield
LE3 8RF

Tel **0116 305 7136**

Email EYSENISAdmin@leics.gov.uk

Web leicestershire.gov.uk/daf

A Parent and Carer's Guide to

Disability Access Fund



What is the Disability Access Fund?

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is funding for early years providers to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. It is additional money for providers to make reasonable adjustments to their provision.



Who is eligible?

Children who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and accessing their 3 and 4 year old funding (including the extended entitlement) will be eligible for the DAF.

If you think you could be entitled to disability living allowance but need support completing the form, then there are useful contacts of places you can go for support on the back of this leaflet.

Children may only attend the provision for a few hours a week but are still entitled to the DAF.

The DAF payment doesn't provide parents with a discount to their childcare costs, but instead allows providers to maximize the potential of children in their setting through the support of additional resources, staff or activities, making reasonable adjustments where necessary, to ensure a quality experience for all children.

Your early years provider will need to check that your child is in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA), by taking a copy of your confirmation and asking you to complete a Parent Statement of Undertaking. If your child attends more than one provision, you will be asked to choose which provision receives the DAF.

You should also be aware that if you change providers during the year that the DAF payment will not follow your child.



What happens next?

Once your provision has received the additional funding (DAF payment) for your child (approximately £800), they can talk to you about how best to support your child and involve you in how to spend the money in the setting. Sometimes the setting may have more than one child who has the DAF funding, so they may want to join the funding together to buy something bigger.

► The funding could be used to:

- purchase specialist equipment
- make adaptations to the environment
- buy ICT resources to improve children's opportunity to access technology
- improving access to the outdoor provision to support gross physical skills
- develop a sensory room
- employ an additional member of staff to enhance the support available
- offer family trips to engage parents in children's learning
- support for practitioners to access ongoing training to further develop knowledge
- play packs developed to promote home learning opportunities.