Early Years and Childcare Service
Working in partnership for children and families

Disability Access Fund

Information for parents, carers and Early Years providers

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is funding that enables early years providers to support children aged 3 to 4 with disabilities or special educational needs. It funds providers to make reasonable adjustments to their settings in order to further support a child/children with disabilities or special needs. This is so that they can to make the most of the opportunity which early education offers them.

Children are eligible for the DAF if they meet both of the following criteria:

- the child's parent/carer receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for the child;
- the child is accessing their free early education entitlement

Providers will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £828 per year in order to make appropriate adjustments at their setting. The DAF is not based on an hourly rate it is an additional entitlement and is for use at one setting. If the child attends more than one setting, the parents will need to choose which of their providers gets the funding. The funding cannot be transferred between early years settings, and it will not move with the child if the child moves settings.

Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to receive the DAF. It is up to the childcare provider to decide how they spend the DAF but it cannot be used to pay for additional hours. Support, advice and guidance is available for providers from the Early Years Portage and Inclusion Team.

Where a child lives in one authority area but attends a provider in a different local authority, the provider's local authority is responsible for checking his/her eligibility and for funding the DAF.

Providers are responsible for identifying eligible children and should speak to parents in order to find out if they are eligible for the DAF.

Providers should use the EYR1 Parental Declaration Form which asks parents for the necessary information for a range of early years funding, including the DAF.

Providers should obtain a copy of the child's Disability Living Allowance (DLA) award letter from eligible parents as proof of his/her eligibility. This must be stored securely. Providers will need to update their relevant funding software at the first available headcount

Providers will receive the £828 payment via their usual funding stream.