

EnhanceAble Children's Services are a part of the Moor Lane Children and Young People's Development Service.

The ECS provides guidance and leaflets about:

- ◇ Benefits
- ◇ Leisure
- ◇ Childcare
- ◇ Blue Badges
- ◇ Support Groups
- ◇ 'I-Count' Disabled Children's Register
- ◇ Parent Partnership Services

**If you require help understanding this leaflet or any other further information please contact Caroline Baxter or Stella Tomkins:**

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# Benefits



## Benefits

There are benefits specifically aimed to help support children and young people with a disability.

### Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

DLA is tax-free and not means tested.

#### Care Component

This benefit is awarded to those children or young people who need extra help with personal care because of their disability for example:

- ◇ Delayed communication skills (speech problems, poor understanding of the world around them, poor social skills)
- ◇ Physical disabilities that inhibit their ability to care for themselves
- ◇ Extra help is needed with eating, dressing, toileting (such as using nappies for longer than expected or needing help with personal hygiene)
- ◇ Poor sleep
- ◇ Problems with behaviour
- ◇ Learning difficulties
- ◇ Therapy input is required (e.g. physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, portage, occupational therapy).

These needs must have existed for more than 3 months and be expected to continue for a further 6 months.

There are 3 rates of DLA care component:

**Lower rate:** your child may qualify if they require extra support with personal care for some of the day.

**Middle rate:** your child may qualify if they require extra support with personal care frequently throughout the day or night.

**Higher rate:** your child may qualify if they require extra support with personal care throughout the day and also during the night.

#### Mobility Component

To qualify for the Mobility Component of DLA, your child or young person must:

- ◇ Have a physical disability that means they are unable or virtually unable to walk
- ◇ Sensory impairment (visual or hearing impaired)
- ◇ Require significant guidance or supervision from another person to keep them safe while outdoors
- ◇ Have learning, behavioural or medical difficulties that means they cannot be left unsupervised while outdoors.

There are 2 rates of DLA mobility component:

**Lower rate:** a child aged 5 or over can qualify for this if they require extra guidance or supervision from another person to keep them safe whilst outdoors.

**Higher rate:** a child aged 3 or over can qualify for this if:

- ◇ Their condition means they cannot walk at all
- ◇ They are severely mentally impaired and/or have severe behavioural problems
- ◇ Their medical condition is so significant that walking could threaten or seriously affect their health
- ◇ If they have a significant sensory impairment that requires someone else to be with them whilst outdoors

#### Carers Allowance:

A main carer for a child or young person with a disability can claim Carers Allowance if the child gets DLA care component at the middle or highest rate and:

- ◇ They care for the child or young person for more than 35 hours a week
- ◇ They earn under £100 per week (April 2010 – April 2011, this figure changes each year)

#### **What support can the EnhanceAble Children's Service offer?**

- ◇ Guidance as to which if any benefits could apply to your child
- ◇ We can order the forms
- ◇ Assist you to complete the forms
- ◇ Act on your behalf in dealings with the benefits agencies
- ◇ Offer advice on other benefits that may be available to a family that includes a disabled child.

