

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

The Children's Service 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 either Caroline Baxter or Bonnie Grahame-Betts.

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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 £95 per week (April 2009 – April 2010, 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.