

Information for Parents and Carers

Benefits and Entitlement

- **DLA – Disability Living Allowance**

DLA is awarded to children under 16 who have a disability, illness or health condition which requires them to need more support throughout the day than a child without a disability, and/or if the child has difficulties walking.

DLA is awarded in two categories; **Mobility** and **Care**. Each category has different rates awarded.

Care- can be awarded from birth.

Low rate is awarded if the child needs extra care for some of the day, this can be about an hour.

Middle rate is awarded if the child needs extra care several times a day **or** night for short periods **or** if they need extra supervision right throughout the day.

High rate is awarded if the child needs help during the day **and** night.

Mobility- low rate is awarded from 5 years old, high rate is awarded from 3 years old.

Low rate is awarded if the child can walk but needs extra help to guide or supervise them to get around outdoors or somewhere they don't know.

High rate is awarded if a child has a physical disability. This can include not being able to walk at all or if walking outside will cause severe discomfort **or** seriously affect their health.

A child may also get high rate if both legs have been amputated or born without legs or feet **or**

Certified as severely sight impaired **or** are deaf and blind **or** qualify for the high rate of care with severe behavioural problems.

www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children

Telephone: 0800 121 4600

- **Family Fund**

Can be awarded once DLA is in place, this is awarded yearly however this needs to be applied for each year. You also need evidence that you are in receipt of one of the following benefits;

- Universal Credit
- Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Personal Credit

Family fund is money awarded to purchase items to benefit the child from approved companies, this can include;

- Trampolines/climbing frames
- Laptops, iPads, computers
- Sensory or outdoor equipment
- Bedroom items or décor
- Holidays such as Haven breaks (this may require an additional contribution from parents/carers)

www.familyfund.org.uk

Telephone: 01904 550055

- **Merlin's Magic Wand Parents/ carers can apply for a one off opportunity for free tickets to a merlin attraction. This is for immediate family members (parents/carers and siblings).**
<https://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/>

- **CEA Card**

This allows someone who is over 8 years old and in receipt of DLA to receive 1 free cinema ticket in order to take someone to support them with their additional needs. There is an initial cost of £6 to apply for this card.

www.ceacard.co.uk

Telephone: 01244 526016

- **Max Card**

A max card allows families of children with additional needs to get free or discounted entry to attractions across the UK;

- Some Theatres in NE – 10% off tickets
- Some softplay and trampoline centres in NE offer discounts

www.mymaxcard.co.uk

Telephone: 01924 302471

If you need to ask any questions or for further advice, please contact:

Barnardo's SENDIASS on **0191 4784667**

or email **DAISS@barnardos.org.uk**