

Disability Access Fund (DAF) Guidance – A Parents Guide

- **What is the Disability Access Fund (DAF)**

The Disability Access Fund was introduced in April 2017 to ‘enable Early Year’s Providers to anticipate and make reasonable adjustments to their provision and increase the capacity to support disabled children and children with special educational needs’.

- **Who is eligible?**

Children aged between 3 and 4 year old are eligible if they receive free Early Years Education (Nursery Education Grant) and if they are in receipt of Disability Living allowance. DAF provides the Early Years Setting an additional annual amount of £615 per child for those who are eligible.

This funding is not transferable to other settings e.g. If your child leaves before the end of the financial year this money can’t be moved over to a new setting and if your child attends more than one setting it is up to you as the child’s parent to decide where this funding should go – it cannot be split between both settings

- **How are eligible children identified?**

The Early Years Provider is ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children, but if your child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and your setting has not approached you regarding DAF please take this information along to your child’s setting

If you want to know whether your child is eligible for DLA ‘Contact a Family’ has a very helpful website www.cafamily.org.uk that provides support and advice for families of children with additional needs including a specific section on Disability Living Allowance

- **How the funding is accessed?**

If you are a parent of a child who receives DLA and is aged between 3 and 4 years old you will need to produce a copy of the DLA notice to the provider/setting; the provider will take a copy to keep for their records. The provider **must** then also scan and send a copy through to the Funding team at Gloucestershire County Council who will pay them the DAF amount, independently to the headcount claims (nursery education grant).

- **What can the funding be used for?**

This funding is to ensure that that the setting is able to effectively support child/children with disabilities so it can be used in a number of ways. It is important to stress that the funding **is not to** be used to provide 1:1 support. If it is felt that a child needs additional support above and beyond what can be provided from DAF please contact or ask the SENCo

within the setting to contact the SEND Early Help Advisor for further information

EarlyHelpAdviserReferrals@gloucestershire.gov.uk

There are lots of things that a setting can do to make it easier for your child to be safely included and supported and clear guidance has been produced regarding what is expected for all children including those with special educational needs or disabilities in early years settings

It is highly recommended that having a whole setting **Total Communication** approach for all children regardless of their age or developmental ability should be embedded within every Early Years Setting/provision in Gloucestershire. This training can be delivered to whole settings if necessary and parents are actively encouraged to access this training too. For more information either contact your SEND Early Help Advisor or visit **Gloucestershire Total Communication** Website www.totalcommunication.org.uk

Services within Gloucestershire County Council also provide specific training packages for practitioners and early years settings which we would encourage all early years settings to access.

If you as a parent has a specific request regarding equipment or resources that could be purchased for the setting do discuss this with the settings SENCo

Information for parents

GloSFamilies Directory

<http://www.gloSFamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/gloSFamilies/home.page>

Contact a Family Fact Sheets and Parent Guides <https://www.cafamily.org.uk/advice-and-support/resource->

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/advice-and-support/money-benefits-work-and-childcare/working-and-childcare/finding-childcare/>

Contact a Family: workshops for parents

Birth to five' workshops <https://www.cafamily.org.uk/advice-and-support/child-and-family-wellbeing/support-in-the-early-years/birth-to-five-workshops/>

Family and Childcare Trust <http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/guide-childcare-children-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-england><http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/five-steps-choosing-childcare>

Help with paying for childcare; Eligibility check HM Government

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

The National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) <http://www.nnpf.org.uk/>

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/05/Guide-for-working-with-parents-of-children-with-SEND.pdf>