

Disability Access Fund (DAF) Guidance – The Early Years Providers 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?**

3 and 4 year old children are eligible if they receive free Early Years Education 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 the child leaves before the end of the financial year this money can't be moved over to a new setting and if the child attends more than one setting it is up to the parent to decide where this funding should go – it cannot be split between both settings

- **How do we identify eligible children?**

The Early Years Provider is ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children, however if you are unsure whether a child is in receipt of disability living allowance it is important ask parents in a sensitive way. Some settings have produced a poster that gives parents information about the DAF and others have added to newsletters/websites.

If parents want to know whether their 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 do we access this?**

A parent of a child in receipt of DLA will need to produce a copy of the DLA notice to the provider; the provider will take a copy to keep for their records. The provider **must** 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.

- **What can we use the funding for?**

This funding is to ensure that you are 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 your SEND Early Help Advisor for further information EarlyHelpAdviserReferrals@gloucestershire.gov.uk

There are lots of things you can do in your setting to make it easier for you to safely include and support children with additional needs and SEN

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. For more information either contact your SEND Early Help Advisor or visit **Gloucestershire Total Communication** Website www.totalcommunication.org.uk

A list of local resources/training that you could use the Disability Access Fund for are suggested below:

The **Educational Psychology Service** provides a diverse range of training opportunities including:

- Play and learning to Socialise Skills Programme
- Introduction to Pathological Demand Avoidance
- Video Interaction Guidance
- Emotion Coaching
- Autism and Communication Needs Professional Support Forums
- Early Years Screening and Interaction (EY EaSI)

For further information including how to book onto a training course please follow these links:

- <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/13357/eps-training-and-interventions.pdf>
- <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/your-pupils/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-support-services/educational-psychology-service-eps/educational-psychology-service-training/>

The **Advisory Teaching Service** has a wealth of training sessions that are specific to Early Years Practitioners/Providers; more information about these can be found by following this link:

- <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/4537/ats-training-booklet.pdf>

The organisation **Active Impact** provides free **Inclusion Needs You** training for practitioners who are or is interested in working with disabled children or young people within Gloucestershire. For further information visit their website www.activegloucestershire.org.uk or email them on training@activeimpact.org.uk

Gloucestershire County Councils Early Years Team also offer a wide range of training opportunities for anyone working within the Early Years Sector, further information can be found by following www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-years-team/training

Action for Children have collated the following useful links of resources, information or training for Practitioners working with Early Years Children with a range of needs

Area of need (1) Communication and Interaction

Ambitious About Autism <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/>

Autism Education Trust <http://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/early-years/>

Book trust www.booktrust.org.uk

The Communication Trust – What works? <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/whatworks>

The Communication Trust – Early years <https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/earlyyears>

Elklan Speech & Language training <http://www.elklan.co.uk/>

Every Child a Talker (ECAT)

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2011/10/every-child-a-talker-guidance-for-early-language-lead-practitioners/>

ICAN <http://www.ican.org.uk/>

Fact sheets <http://www.ican.org.uk/What-we-do/ICAN%20Help/factsheets>

Makaton – free resources

<https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/browseStore/Free-resources>

National Autistic Society <http://www.autism.org.uk>

National Literacy Trust : http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/early_years

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/resources/practical_resources_info/filter/early%20years%20sector

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/baby/fun>

Network Autism <http://network.autism.org.uk/>

Signalong Communication Charity <http://www.signalong.org.uk/>

The Speech Language and Communication Framework

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-practitioners/the-slcframework.aspx>

Talking Point : www.talkingpoint.org.uk

<http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/directory/free-resources-professionals>

Communication Friendly Spaces: www.elizabethjarmanltd.co.uk

Area of need (2) Cognition and Learning

Do2learn www.do2learn.com

Downs Syndrome Education <https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/for-families-and-carers/education/>

Dyslexia <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/about/projects/early-intervention-project-eip>

Inclusion Development Programme <http://www.idponline.org.uk/>

National Portage Association <https://www.portage.org.uk>

SCOPE <https://www.scope.org.uk/support/families/play/activity-overview>

Area of need (3) Sensory

Natsip <https://www.natsip.org.uk/index.php/doc-library-login/suporting-the-si-workforce/supporting-the-achievement-of-deaf-children-in>

Low cost sensory ideas – Judy Denziloe <http://afltraining.co.uk/>

Richard Hirstwood – Sensory Ideas <http://www.hirstwood.com/>

RNIB <http://www.rnib.org.uk>

SENSE <https://www.sense.org.uk/content/childrens-specialist-services>

Area of need (4) Social Emotional and Mental Health

Association of infant Mental Health (AIMH) <http://www.aimh.org.uk>

<http://semh.co.uk>

Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk>

KCA Training <https://www.kca.training/?>

Further Workforce Development

Workforce Strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-workforce-strategy>

CPD

Nasen On-line learning and webcasts for early years providers: <http://www.nasen.org.uk/early-years-send-resources/>

SSAT Online training materials and downloadable fact sheets and briefing packs in relation to children with complex learning difficulties and disabilities.

<http://complexld.ssatrust.org.uk/project-resources/cldd-briefing-packs.html>

Online training materials for autism; dyslexia; speech, language and communication; emotional, social and behavioral difficulties; moderate learning difficulties. www.advanced-training.org.uk/

Information for parents

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.nnpcf.org.uk/>

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

SEN and disability information and guidance

Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years

(Early years providers, chapter 5)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf

Early years: Guide to the 0 to 25 SEND code of practice: Advice for early years providers that are funded by the local authority. DfE, September 2014

Link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350685/Early_Years_Guide_to_SEND_Code_of_Practice_-_02Sept14.pdf

Disabled Children and the Equality Act 2010

Disabled Children and the Equality Act 2010: What Early Years providers need to know and do, including responsibilities to disabled children under the Children and Families Act 2014

https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/equality-act-early-years_online.pdf

SEN and disability in the early years: a toolkit

Council for Disabled Children and 4Children

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/sen-and-disability-early-years-toolkit>

Research and Reports

Childcare for families with disabled children

[https://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/884234/childcare for families with disabled children - how to access free childcare for two to four-year-olds.pdf](https://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/884234/childcare_for_families_with_disabled_children_-_how_to_access_free_childcare_for_two_to_four-year-olds.pdf)

Disabled children's cognitive development in the early years

<http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/page.aspx?&sitesectionid=1203&sitesectiontitle=Trajectories+and+transitions+in+the+cognitive+and+educational+development+of+disabled+children+and+young+people>

Maximising the impact of teaching assistants and other research <http://maximisingtas.co.uk>

Parliamentary Inquiry into childcare for disabled children:

The Inquiry held three oral evidence sessions and put out a call for written evidence, which received 35 responses from organisations representing parents, providers and local authorities as well as almost 1200 responses from individual parent carers:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/findings-parliamentary-inquiry-childcare>

Study of Early Education and Development (SEED) <http://www.seed.natcen.ac.uk/>

Early education use and child outcomes up to age 3

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-use-and-child-outcomes-up-to-age-3>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/study-of-early-education-and-development-seed>

Meeting the Needs of Children with SEND in Early Years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-with-send-meeting-their-needs-in-the-early-years>

Good Practice in Early Education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/good-practice-in-early-education>