

**Coventry Early Years’ Business, Sufficiency and Funding Team**

 **A Parent Guide to Disability Access Funding (DAF)**

**What is Disability Access Funding (DAF)?**

Disability Access Funding (DAF) is an additional annual payment that is made directly to your child’s Early Year’s Childcare Provider. It is for eligible children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Disability Access Funding aims to help Childcare Providers make reasonable adjustments which support children with SEND to access their Early Education Entitlement.

**Childcare Providers may use the funding to;**

* access specialist training for staff.
* purchase specific resources.
* fund additional sessions etc.

**Which children are eligible to receive DAF?**

Eligible children will be;

* in receipt of the Universal Entitlement (15 hours) for 3-and-4-year-olds

and

* must be a child for whom the Parent receives [**Disability Living Allowance**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOZoFKObTpA) (DLA).

If you think your Childcare Provider may be able to claim DAF for your child, please let them know as soon as possible so they can approach the Local Authority to claim this funding.

**Which Childcare Providers can claim DAF?**

Any Childcare Provider who delivers Universal Entitlement funding can claim DAF for an eligible child. This includes;

* Childminders
* Day Nursery
* Nursery Classes or other early years provision in schools
* Nursery Schools
* Pre-schools

Please note: 4-year-olds who are attending a School Reception Class place are not eligible for DAF.

**How will the Childcare Provider use DAF to support my child?**

The Childcare Provider should identify what reasonable adaptations or resources may be required to support your child to have equal access to the early years provision, by removing barriers which impact on their participation.

Childcare Providers should liaise with you about your child’s needs and engage with relevant professionals to ensure the DAF is spent appropriately. Relevant professionals may include the child’s Portage Worker; Educational Psychologist, SEND advisor; Physiotherapist; Occupational Therapist; Health Visitor etc.

If a Childcare Provider has more than one child in receipt of DAF, they may combine the funding to support adjustments or purchases that will benefit more than one child. Where a Childcare Provider makes purchases or completes work in relation to adjustments that exceed the amount of funding provided by DAF, the Provider will be expected to contribute the shortfall.

Childcare Providers are expected to keep evidence of how they have spent DAF and the impact it has made for children in receipt of it. Evidence may be requested by the Local Authority or Ofsted at any time.

**What if my child attends two Childcare Providers?**

If your child attends two different Childcare Providers to access their Universal Entitlement, e.g. 7 ½ hours per week with a Childminder and 7 ½ hours per week at a Preschool, you must nominate which Childcare Provider will receive the DAF payment. You can do this by completing the relevant section on the Parent Funding Agreement, which you must complete for both Childcare Providers.

**How is a DAF claim made?**

Once you have completed the Parent Funding Agreement the Childcare Provider can submit a claim to the Local Authority, subject to the terms and conditions relating to timescales, which your Provider will be aware of. You will be asked to provide a copy of your child’s most recent Disability Living Allowance (DLA) award letter. This must be returned to you once the claim has been made.

**If my child leaves the Childcare Provider to attend a new provision, will they transfer funding to the new Provider?**

If your child leaves the nominated provider once the DAF payment has been made, the funding will remain with that provider. The DAF funding is not transferable and does not follow the child.

**If you require further information about DAF, please contact us by calling**

**024 76975 451or email** **EYProviderFunding@coventry.gov.uk**