



Northamptonshire Local Offer

Quick Guide:

EYFS - Disability Access Fund (DAF)

What is the Disability Access Fund (DAF)?

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is designed to support young children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

The DAF gives early years education and childcare providers (nurseries, pre-schools, etc.) a lump-sum payment once a year, per eligible child. The fund is intended to improve access to early years places for children with SEND. For example, a nursery might use the money to make reasonable adjustments to their building. This will benefit a specific child, but it could also help other children who attend the nursery.

Childcare providers who receive funding for the universal [Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year-Olds](#) are entitled to claim the DAF for each eligible child.

Which Children are Eligible for the Disability Access Fund?

Children aged 3 and 4 years will be eligible for the DAF if they meet these criteria:

- They receive [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\) for Children](#).
- They use a childcare provider that receives funding for the universal Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year-Olds.

Please note: 4-year-old children in Reception year (at school) are not eligible for DAF funding.

How Do Childcare Providers Identify Eligible Children?

Childcare providers are responsible for identifying which children are eligible for the DAF. Parents/carers of children who receive DLA will need to provide documented evidence.

How Do Childcare Providers Claim the DAF Funding?

Childcare providers must send evidence of the child's DLA to the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Early Years Funding team. Their email address is EECFunding@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk.

How Do Childcare Providers Receive the DAF Funding?

- NCC fund all registered early years and childcare settings that provide places for eligible children in their area. The DAF will be paid at the fixed annual rate per eligible child.



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- The DAF will not be offset against any other funding (such as High Needs Funding).
- The DAF is payable as a lump sum once a year per eligible child. If the family are splitting their Funded Entitlement between two childcare providers, they'll need to nominate the main one.
- Sometimes, a child receiving the DAF will move from one childcare provider to another within the financial year. In this case, the new childcare provider won't receive the DAF funding for that child within the same financial year. Also, the DAF funding that was received by the original setting won't be recouped.
- If a child lives in one authority area but attends a childcare provider in another, the childcare provider's local authority will be responsible for the eligibility-checking and DAF.

For more information about the help available for childcare costs, please visit: [Help with Early Education and Childcare Costs for 2, 3, or 4 Year-Olds](#), or email the Early Years Funding team: EECFunding@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk.



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