

# DISABILITY BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR CHILDREN

If your child has a disability or long-term health condition, you might be entitled to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Child Disability Payment (CDP) for them as well as other financial support. It's important to know what disability benefits and entitlements your child might qualify for and how to claim them.

## Disability Living Allowance for children

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is for children living in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. For children living in Scotland you'll need to claim the [Child Disability Payment \(CDP\)](#) instead. DLA It is a regular payment to help with the extra costs of daily living or getting about because your child has a long-term health condition or disability. A diagnosis of their condition is helpful but not essential – it is the effect of their condition that matters most. It isn't means-tested.

This means you might be able to claim the benefit for your child regardless of your income or how much you have in savings.

### Who is it for?

- children aged under 16 years who need extra help with daily living tasks, or
- children aged under 16 years who need help with mobility (getting about).

### How much is it?

For the 2026/27 tax year, you could get between £30.30 and £194.60 a week, depending on your child's needs and their age.

### How to claim?

If your child lives in England or Wales claim online on GOV.UK for the [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\) for children](#). If your child lives in Northern Ireland claim online on nidirect.

### What happens when my child turns 16?

Your child will need to apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) when they turn 16.

They will receive a letter from the DWP inviting them to apply for PIP. If they apply by the deadline date in the letter, they will continue to receive DLA until their PIP claim is assessed. Find out more about [Personal Independence Payment](#)

## Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment (CDP) is a regular payment for children living in Scotland to help with the extra costs of daily living or getting about because your child has a long-term health condition or disability. Your child's disability can be mental or physical. It isn't means-tested.

This means you might be able to claim the benefit for your child regardless of your income or how much you have in savings.

### Who is it for?

- children aged under 16 years who need extra help with daily living tasks, or
- children aged under 16 years who need help with mobility (getting about).

### How much is it?

For the 2026/27 tax year, you could get between £30.30 and £194.60 a week, depending on your child's needs and age.

### How to claim?

[Claim online](#) on mygov.scot

### What happens when my child turns 16?

Social Security Scotland (the equivalent to the DWP in Scotland) will continue to pay Child Disability Payment until your child is 18.

However, just before they turn 16 until they turn 18, they can choose to apply for Adult Disability Payment (ADP) instead as they might receive more on ADP than CDP. You should seek advice before claiming ADP early. Find out more about [moving from CDP to ADP](#) on mygov.scot.

## Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Adult Disability Payment (ADP)

### What is PIP and ADP?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, or Adult Disability Payment (ADP) in Scotland, is a payment that helps with the extra costs of being disabled or having a long-term health condition. It isn't means-tested.

This means for your child you might be able to claim the benefit when they turn 16, regardless of your or their income or savings.

### Who is it for?

People aged over 16 and under State Pension age at the time of claiming who need help with daily living tasks or mobility (getting around).

At 16, PIP and ADP belongs to the disabled person. If they lack capacity to handle the claim or the money, someone can act on their behalf.

If your child is aged 16 or over and they're making a new claim for help with the extra costs of disability, they'll need to claim Personal Independence Payment. If they live in Scotland they'll need to claim Adult Disability Payment. Find out more about [Adult Disability Payment](#) on mygovscot.uk.

If your child is already getting Disability Living Allowance, they'll be invited to make a new claim for Personal Independence Payment when they reach age 16. The process for moving from Child Disability Payment to Adult Disability Payment in Scotland is described in the section above about [Child Disability Payment](#)

### How much is PIP and ADP?

For the 2026/27 tax year, you could get between £30.30 and £194.60 a week, depending on your child's needs. Find out more in our guides [Personal Independence Payment – an introduction](#) and [Adult Disability Payment](#)

## Help with housing costs if your child has a disability

### Universal Credit

#### Who is it for?

If you are on a low income and need help with paying your rent, you might be able to claim Universal Credit. More of your rent could be covered if a child in your household has a disability or long-term health condition.

There is a higher rate of Universal Credit for children who get DLA or CDP. This extends to PIP and ADP for 16-19 year olds

if they are still in non-advanced education. Universal Credit has replaced Housing Benefit for claims for help with housing costs.

### Help with Council Tax (or Rates in Northern Ireland)

#### Who is it for?

It's for the person responsible for paying Council Tax (or Rates in Northern Ireland). More of your bill might be covered if a child in your household has a disability or long-term health condition.

Council Tax Reduction schemes are run by local councils in England, Wales and Scotland. Find out more about [Council Tax Reduction](#) on GOV.UK

#### How to claim?

In England and Wales, contact your local council to apply for their Council Tax Reduction scheme. [Find your local council](#) on GOV.UK.

In Scotland, contact your local authority to find out about their Council Tax Reduction scheme. [Find your local council](#) on mygov.scot.

In Northern Ireland, find out more about the [help available with paying your Rates](#) on nidirect.

### Cold Weather Payment

#### Who is it for?

You might be able to get a Cold Weather Payment to help with home heating costs if your child has a long-term health condition or disability, and you're getting one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Support for Mortgage Interest.

#### How to claim?

You don't need to apply for this. If you qualify for a Cold Weather Payment, you'll be paid it automatically after the temperature in your area has dropped below 0°C for seven consecutive days or more. Find out more about [the Cold Weather Payment](#) on GOV.UK

## Universal Credit if your child has a disability

If you need extra support, you will need to make a claim for the child element of Universal Credit. How much you get will depend on your household income. You may also be able to claim the disabled child addition.

Depending on your child's condition and the support they need, you could get from £164.79 to £514.71 extra a month (2026/27) as part of your Universal Credit calculation.

## Help with getting about – Motability and Blue Badge Schemes

### Motability Scheme

#### Who is it for?

It's for people getting the higher rate mobility element of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment. The scheme can provide a car, motorised wheelchair or scooter.

#### How to claim?

Call Motability on [0300 456 4566](tel:03004564566).

Find out more on the [Motability](#) site

### Blue Badge Scheme

#### Who is it for?

The Blue Badge scheme helps those with severe mobility problems who have difficulty using public transport to park close to where they need to go. Charges and entitlement rules for the Blue Badge scheme vary across the UK.

#### How to claim?

[Apply for a Blue Badge online](#) on GOV.UK or contact your local council.

[Find your local council](#) on GOV.UK

[Find out more about the Blue Badge Scheme](#) on GOV.UK

## Benefits if you're a carer

Carer's Allowance and the Carer Support Payment

#### Who is it for?

You get it if you're spending at least 35 hours a week caring for a child who gets the middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance or the daily living component of PIP if they're aged over 16.

If you're on a low income and looking after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week, you can apply for the carer's element as part of a Universal Credit claim.

If you're already getting Carer's Allowance this will be counted as part of your income when working out how much Universal Credit you're entitled to. Find out more about Carer's Allowance in our guide to [Benefits you can claim as a carer](#)

If you live in Scotland, you must apply for Carer Support Payment instead of Carer's Allowance. This is paid at a standard rate of £86.45 (2026/27) per week.

Find out more about [applying for Carer Support Payment](#) on mygov.scot. Carers in Scotland will also [get a new Scottish Carer Supplement £11.70 a week](#)

This replaces the Carer's Allowance Supplement. Help with claiming disability benefits for your child Disability benefits are there to help you. But working out if your child qualifies, and filling in the forms, can be complicated.

Are you claiming Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment for your child? Then they'll usually need to be medically assessed as part of the claim process. To get free expert help and advice, call these helplines to speak to an adviser.

- DWP's Disability Benefits Helpline: [0800 121 4600](tel:08001214600) or visit the [Disability Service Centre site](#)
- Call Contact's Family Helpline: [0808 808 3555](tel:08088083555) or visit the [Contact charity site](#)
- Enter your postcode on Citizens Advice to [find your local bureau](#)

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