

# FACT SHEET – Disability Access Fund (DAF)

## What is the DAF?

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is designed to support children with disabilities or special educational needs (SEND). The DAF aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting childcare providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings to enhance access and inclusion for all children. The funding aims to facilitate childcare providers to:

- make reasonable adjustments to support children with SEND
- access specialist training
- to facilitate purchasing specific resources to support the child

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### How do I check if a child is eligible for DAF?

3- and 4-year-olds will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the criteria below:

- The child is in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and;
- The child attends an early years childcare provider who is claiming FEEE funding on their behalf.

Any 4-year-old children that are in school reception class, are NOT eligible for DAF funding.

Early years providers are responsible for identifying eligible children. We encourage you to speak to parents / carers to find out who is eligible. Parents / carers of children qualifying for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) are required to provide current documented evidence of this allowance. Local authorities are responsible for checking that the DAF eligibility criteria are met, based on the evidence received from the provider.

### Can a 2-year-old apply for DAF?

No, the DAF is only available for 3- and 4-year-olds who meet the eligibility criteria below:

- The child is in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and;
- The child attends an early years childcare provider who is claiming FEEE funding on their behalf.

### Are adopted children eligible for DAF?

An adopted child is only eligible for DAF if they are in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and they claim FEEE hours at an early years provider.

## **Do children have to take up the full 570 free entitlement to receive the DAF?**

No, children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of free entitlement to receive the DAF.

## **How do I apply for DAF Funding and what evidence is required?**

You can apply for the DAF when completing the headcount / adjustment tasks on the Provider Portal. When you have a child who is eligible, you must tick the 'Nominated for DAF' box on the child's details page, and attach a copy of their current DLA letter and a copy of their PSOU in the 'Documents' tab. Please refer to the [Guidance on completing the 3-& 4- Year-Old Funding Headcount Task](#) for further support.

## **How do I upload evidence and attach files for DAF Funding?**

Please refer to the [Guidance on completing the 3-&4-Year-Old Funding Headcount Task](#) which will instruct you on how to attach the evidence needed.

## **How will I know if a DAF application has been successful or not?**

You will be able to view if DAF is going to be paid for a child, by accessing the 'Summary' tab on the Provider Portal and looking at the correct period.

## **How much funding will I receive per child?**

From September 2023, LCC will fund all OfSTED registered childcare providers, providing a place for each eligible child for the DAF at the fixed annual rate of £881 per eligible child.

## **How often will I receive DAF Payments?**

Childcare providers who have children claiming FEEE at their setting who are eligible for the DAF, will be entitled to receive a single, one-off payment of £881 per year from September 2023.

## **Can DAF be split between providers?**

No. If a child eligible for DAF is splitting their free entitlement across two or more providers, only one provider will be able to claim the DAF. Parents / carers are asked to nominate the main provider on their PSOU form, which will need to be sent to the local authority via the Provider Portal as part of the evidence that needs to be seen.

## **If a child leaves our setting after we have been awarded the DAF, will we have to repay the money or transfer it to another provider?**

No, if a child receiving DAF funding moves from one provider to another, the new childcare provider is not eligible to receive DAF funding for this child until 12 months after the first application was processed. DAF funding received by the original setting will not be recouped.

### **If a child lives out of County, which local authority pays for DAF?**

Where a child lives in one authority area but attends a childcare provider in a different local authority, the childcare provider's local authority is responsible for funding the DAF for the child and the eligibility checking.

### **Can DAF be backdated?**

No, DAF funding cannot be backdated.

### **Once a child receives DAF, will it ever stop?**

An application for DAF is to be made annually by the provider. If the child continues to meet the eligibility criteria, funding will continue.

### **When will I receive the DAF payment?**

Depending on when you apply for funding, your payment will either appear on the headcount actual payment or adjustment payment date. The DAF payment will appear on your 'Summary' or 'Adjustments' tab which can be accessed via the Provider Portal.



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**For more FEEE information for Providers, please visit the [FEEE Website for Providers](#)**