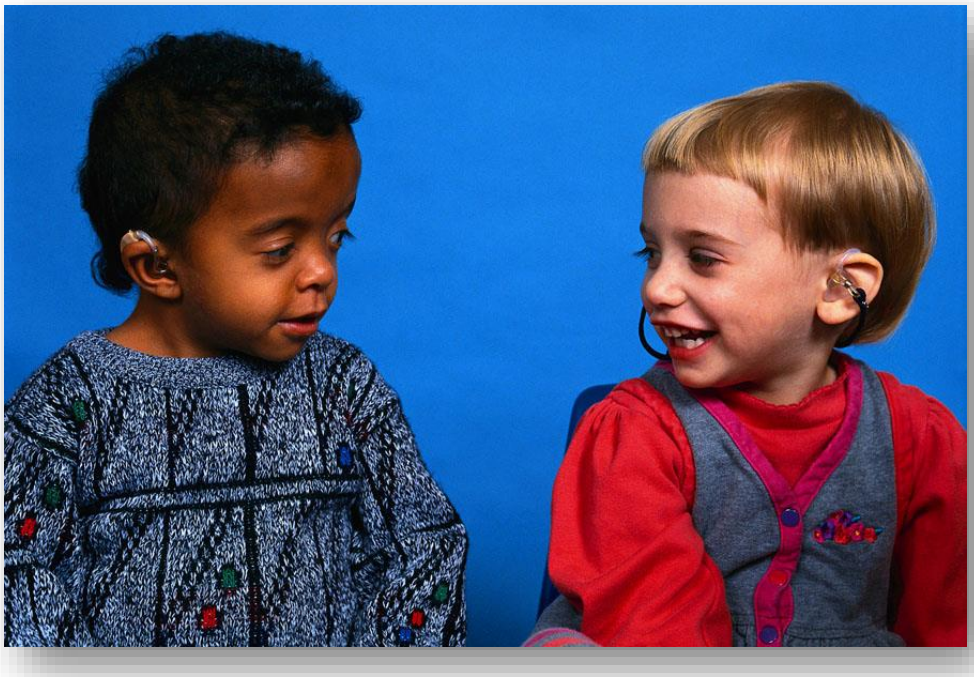
DLA Application Guide for SENCos

In Early Years Settings



Barnet Early Years SEND Advisory Team is committed to supporting early year's settings to move to more inclusive environments for children with a variety of special educational needs and disabilities. This document has been produced by Barnet Early Years SEND Advisory Team

How EYFS PVI SENCos in Barnet can support parents/carers to apply for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children

SENCos in PVIs can support families to apply for DLA for individual children who have additional care needs and/or mobility needs. The application will most likely initially be discussed at an SEN Support Plan Meeting. This is a brief guide to support SENCos to help parents apply for DLA and to signpost them to further sources of support where needed.

When a child has DLA, the child becomes entitled to FEE 2 from the term after they turn 2 years old. The setting is then entitled to apply for Disability Access Funding (DAF) from when the child turns 3 years old

How can SENCos explain what DLA is to parents?

DLA is money that parents of children (under 16 years old), who have additional care needs or mobility needs, can apply for.

All the detailed eligibility requirements, outlined in the below website link, need to be met in order for the application to be successful.

Where can SENCos direct parents/carers to get more information about DLA, including the eligibility criteria?

This website gives an overview of what DLA is, what the rates are for children, what the eligibility criteria is and how to claim for it. https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children

Where can SENCos direct parents to start the process of claiming DLA?

SENCos can direct parents to the link below or support them by accessing it together. https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children/how-to-claim

How can SENCos support parents to fill in the form?

The DLA form is extensive and many parents wish to receive support in filling it in. Some SENCos may directly support parents to fill this form in. Others may feel it is more appropriate to signpost families to one or more of the following sources of support:

Citizens Advice provide a number of different options of support for parents in filling in the DLA form.

https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-

andcarers/disability-living-allowance/help-with-your-dla-claim/help-with-dla-form/

Barnet MENCAP also provides support and help to parents to fill in the form. SENCos can use the referral form on the page to refer parents for support or parents can contact MENCAP directly.

https://www.barnetmencap.org.uk/what-we-offer/children-and-family/0-25advice-support/

SENCos can also provide parents with the details of Children's Centres in Barnet. Many of the Children's Centres are able to provide support on welfare rights, which includes DLA. 'Open Door Mondays' operates fortnightly with Barnet Mencap and the Pre-School Teaching Team at Silkstream Children's Centre, Silkstream Road, Edgware HA8 0DA. https://www.barnet.gov.uk/directories/childrens-centres

Cerebra provide a useful guide to filling in the form. https://cerebra.org.uk/download/disability-living-allowance-dla-guide/

Our Place is a baby and toddler group for children with additional needs in Barnet, which can also provide support. https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/organisations/28347-our-place-babies-andtoddler-group-for-children-with-additional-needs

please note that 'parents' refers to parents/carers/guardians in this document.