

Guidance for Using the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Template Letter

Purpose

This template letter is designed to assist and support healthcare and other professionals in providing supporting evidence for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) applications. It offers a structured format to outline the child/young person's care and/or mobility needs, ensuring that the application clearly demonstrates eligibility under the DLA framework.

When to Use the Template Letter

The letter should be used to support families applying for DLA where the child/young person:

- Is under 16 years old.
- Has a medical condition or disability that requires substantial additional care, supervision, or mobility support beyond what is typical for a child of the same age.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for DLA based on their care and/or mobility needs (outlined below).

DLA Eligibility Criteria

DLA for children is divided into two components:

1. **Care Component** (*Low, Middle, or High Rate*)
 - The child/young person needs more care, supervision, or help with daily activities than a child of the same age without a disability.
 - This includes help with feeding, washing, dressing, medical supervision, night-time care, and communication support.
2. **Mobility Component** (*Lower or Higher Rate – only for children aged 3 and over*)
 - The child/young person requires significant assistance with mobility due to physical or cognitive impairments.
 - Eligibility may be automatic if the child receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of DLA or qualifies under specific medical conditions.

For full eligibility details, refer to official DLA guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Key Points to Emphasise in the Letter

The child/young person requires substantial additional care or supervision due to their medical condition.

They need support with daily tasks, such as:

- Ventilator management, tracheostomy care, suctioning
- Enteral feeding, personal hygiene, dressing
- 24/7 medical supervision for breathing support or seizure monitoring

Their night-time needs, such as repositioning, overnight suctioning, or constant monitoring, are significant.

Mobility Needs (For Children Aged 3 and Over)

- The child/young person is unable to walk unaided or requires a wheelchair/mobility aid.
- They experience severe fatigue, breathlessness, or pain when walking.
- Public transport is unsafe or impractical due to their medical equipment or condition.
- They require close supervision when outdoors due to high risks.

Including Medical Evidence

To strengthen the DLA application, attach relevant supporting evidence, such as:

- Consultant or specialist reports confirming the child/young person's condition and needs.
- Community nursing assessments.
- Therapy assessments (e.g., physiotherapy, occupational therapy).
- Care plans detailing medical interventions and supervision requirements.

Additional Resources

For further guidance or assistance with the application process, visit the official DLA page on GOV.UK: [GOV.UK DLA Information](https://www.gov.uk/dla).