

DISABILITY BENEFITS

There are two main Disability Benefits: Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children and young people under 16 and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for adults over 16.

They are designed to compensate for the extra costs involved in having a disability. DLA and PIP can also be a gateway to other benefits, or entitle you to additional premiums on existing benefits.



DLD & RELATED CONDITIONS

Not all children with DLD and related conditions qualify for DLA, but those who require substantial additional attention or supervision certainly do. Under the current criteria, few adults with DLD qualify for PIP unless they have another condition as well. For guidance on applying for DLA see Afasic's own booklet: [Your rights and the SEN system – Afasic](#). The Afasic booklet also contains information about PIP and more guidance is available from the Citizens' Advice Bureau: [How to claim PIP - Citizens Advice](#) or Disability Rights UK: [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\) | Disability Rights UK](#)

CONTACT US

Afasic would like to hear from families that have been unable to access PIP, so please get in touch if this affects you or your child.

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TIPS ON DESCRIBING COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

These tips from Amaze [for families with disabled children and young people in Sussex - Amaze \(amazesussex.org.uk\)](#) describe various ways that your child's communication skills might be impaired. If so, you should include them in your application for DLA or PIP:

DO THEY GET IN A MUDDLE

Do they get in a muddle and cannot organise their thoughts?

Maybe they don't put what they are saying into context, miss out key pieces of information or tell you things in the wrong order. So you find yourself saying, "I'm lost. Let's start again. Who was there? What happened first?"



DO THEY STRUGGLE TO JUDGE

Do they struggle to judge just how much detail you want?

As a result, they may say far too much so you both lose track of the point they were making. Or they miss out key relevant information, so misleading you.

Do they interrupt and talk over other people?

Even when they are clearly having an important or private conversation.

Do they say things without thinking?

Do they say out loud what the rest of us might think but keep to ourselves? Some children just 'tell it as they see it', and freely offer unsolicited advice. They might make personal remarks without understanding that what they say can hurt other people's feelings.

DO THEY HAVE TROUBLE LISTENING

Do they have trouble listening to what other people are saying?

Many children are easily distracted and 'zone out'. Unless you say their name before you start speaking, they may not even realise you are talking to them. Or they may struggle to 'keep up' and make sense of what other people say. Does your child make mistakes because they've misunderstood? Do you have to make a point of 'keeping it simple' and just giving instructions a bit at a time?

Do they not stop for breath so other people can't get a word in edgeways? Does your child talk at you? Some children have lots to say but aren't interested in hearing what anyone else thinks. They don't invite your comments or ask 'interested' questions. If anyone offers a different opinion, your child is likely to ignore it.

Do they relentlessly argue back?

Can your child argue black is white? Are they always right! Do they struggle to see things from anyone else's perspective? Do they have such a keen sense of justice that they wade into battles that aren't theirs to fight?

Do they struggle to read between the lines when someone else is talking?

Their understanding tends to be literal and they miss 'hidden' messages and implied meaning. So you have to say what you mean and mean what you say. Can they misread other people's feelings or intentions?

DO THEY HAVE TROUBLE LISTENING

Do they find it hard to keep a conversation going?

They don't have any social chit chat and it feels like torture for them to tell what to say or when to join in. Even greetings don't come easily to them. Other people might complain that your child is impolite.

Do they find it hard to tell if someone listening to them is bored?

Does your child keep talking even when the other person has started speaking to someone else, returned to what they were doing or even walked away?

Do they go on and on about the same things?

Some children ask the same questions repeatedly even though they know the answer. Others take every opportunity to switch the conversation back to one of their special interests.

Do they seem to be the last one to get the point of a joke?

Does your child enjoy slapstick humour but not understand why people are laughing at jokes that involve a play on words?

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT - SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Citizens Advice Bureau are a good source of advice and information about the full range of benefits, including those for sickness or disability and for people on low incomes: [Benefits - Citizens Advice](#).

The charity Turn2us also have a lot of information about benefits, including financial support for students over 16: [Studying \(16+\) - Turn2us](#). They also have a facility called Turn2us grants search: [Search for charitable and educational grants - Turn2us](#). This can identify possible sources of support from grant-giving charities.

N.B. Charities won't generally give grants for speech and language therapy because this is a statutory service i.e. it is provided by the state and so, in theory, should deliver the support you need. However, there are exceptions, and we have heard of families getting support from charities relating to a particular profession or other type of work, or a local area. Note, too, that some grants may be means-tested i.e. the amount you receive may depend on your level of income, and higher earners may not qualify for any support at all.



The Family Fund is a charity that awards grants to families with a disabled or seriously ill child for essential items such as washing machines or computers, and family breaks. They focus primarily on lower-income families and some children with DLD may not be considered to meet the criteria. But it is always worth applying if you need extra help.

To contact Afasic please use one of the following:

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