

# **Financial Help for families with Deaf Children**

Having a deaf child in the family can mean extra costs. There may be trips to hospital for hearing tests, new hearing aid moulds etc. You may have to take your child to places by car where a hearing child may be able to walk or use public transport. You may need to give up work to look after your child.

## **Disability Living Allowance**

To help with this there is a benefit called “Disability Living Allowance”. This is not a means tested benefit, it will not be affected by how much the family has coming into the home.

There are two tiers of the benefit; ‘personal care’ and ‘mobility’. Some deaf children will qualify for both and some just one, depending on their needs.

The benefit is based on the extra attention your child needs in connection with communication which is different from a hearing child of the same age.

There is an application form to fill in which you can get sent to you from the Disability Living office by calling 020 8795 8400 Please contact us if you need help you fill in the form.

## **Carer’s Allowance**

If your child receives Disability Living Allowance at the middle rate of the care component or higher and you look after the child for at least 35 hours a week you may be entitled to claim ‘carer’s allowance’. This is paid to you because you are caring for your child and therefore cannot go out to work.

This is not a means tested benefit and can lead to additional premiums if you are claiming other benefits. It is always best to ask for a benefit check at your local benefits office, they will be able to tell you all you are entitled to.

## **Family Fund**

The Family Fund was set up by the Government in 1973 and until 1996 was administered by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation but is now an independent trust.

Their purpose is to ease the stress on families who care for disabled children under sixteen by providing grants and information related to the care of the child.

They can sometimes help with things like Holidays, outings, washing machines, fares for children attending residential school, televisions etc.

One of their team usually comes to meet you to discuss what help you might need. For more information write to them at The Family Fund P.O.Box 50, York, YO1 2ZX.

There are other areas where you may be able to get grants to help your deaf child, please contact us for more information.

Deaf Connexions produces a range of information sheets covering all aspects of hearing loss and deafness. If you would like further information contact :

### **Deaf Connexions**

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