

Information about Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit

Carer's Allowance

A person could get Carer's Allowance if they:

- are aged 16 or over and
- spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a disabled child. The child must have been awarded Disability Living Allowance at either the middle or the highest rate of care before you claim.

Other entitlement conditions apply.

Carer's Allowance should be claimed within 3 months of the Disability Living Allowance decision being made or the carer could lose benefit.

Carer's Allowance and other benefits

Some benefits, allowances or pensions can affect how much Carer's Allowance we pay.

However, extra money could be paid with:

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit, or
- Council Tax Benefit.

Carer's Credit

This is a National Insurance credit for carers of working age who

- can't get Carer's Allowance, and
- look after one or more disabled children for 20 hours or more a week.

If the child or children being cared for don't receive Disability Living Allowance (at either the middle or highest rate of care), a care certificate must be obtained for each child you look after.

Other entitlement conditions apply.

If you get Child Benefit for a child under age 12 or Carer's Allowance you will already be getting National Insurance credits.

For more information about Carer's Allowance or Carer's Credit

- phone us from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, or 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday on **0845 608 4321**
- if you have speech or hearing difficulties, you can contact us using a textphone on **0845 604 5312**
- visit the website at: **www.direct.gov.uk/carers**
- email: **cau.customer-services@dwp.gsi.gov.uk**
- write to: Carer's Allowance Unit, Palatine House, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 1HB.

This information is taken from the Disability Living Allowance Child claim pack notes February 2011.