

Using DAF Effectively

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Background

DAF was introduced April 2017 in response to the EY Funding consultation in 2016. The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is funding for early years providers to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. It aids access to early years places by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings.

Each Local Authority was given a nominal funding figure based on DfE estimates of numbers of children likely to be eligible

By February 2019 the Government were concerned that DAF was nationally under claimed and asked for LA to support to promote take up.

As part of this repromotion we asked our EY settings and childminders for examples of how they have used the funding

Responses were varied and there were some innovative suggestions



- **Example of DAF spends in Stockport**

A child who has very severe allergies. It paid for me to attend ‘allergy and anaphylactic shock’ training.

A childminder –pays herself an extra hour a day to clean and sterilise medical equipment and make up medication for the next day.

Purchased an adapted pram that was suitable for her needs.

Makaton training and resources including 2nd hand iPad

Weighted jackets and blankets for children with sensory issues

A child with cystic fibrosis who is also prone to infections and therefore adapted the mud kitchen with kiln sand.



- **Case Studies**
- **What were the challenges? How were they alleviated? How did the child benefit?**
- **Fatigue management programme**
- Funding for 1-1 observation time for a fatigue management programme for a child is going to school, to assess if the child can adapt and cope with 5 days in school. This is enabling the OT to put a fatigue management plan together for her ready for school.
- **Whole staff training “ A Celebratory Approach to SEND”**
- Staff contributed ideas to supporting all children with SEND in the nursery.
- **Hydrotherapy**
- Staff attended hydrotherapy with the child – enabled the parents not to have to leave work and focus on other appointments- staff able to observe other professionals and
- support the exercises in the nursery.
- **Examples of good practice**

