



Interested in becoming a DLA volunteer?

Our DLA volunteers need to be good listeners, non-judgemental, have good literacy skills and enjoy meeting families. If you think is you and would like to find out more about becoming a DLA volunteer, call our DLA Project Manager on 01273 772289 or email lizzie@amazebrighton.org.uk

DLA training for professionals

Amaze also aims to support other professionals in working positively with parents. We sometimes provide workshops or training around claiming DLA for parent carers. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this area of our work.

We believe that it is only when professionals and parents work together that the best can be achieved for each child.

About Amaze

Amaze is an independent charity that offers information, advice and support to parents and carers of children with special needs. We aim to help parents work in partnership with the professionals and services that are involved with their child. The DLA scheme is only one of the ways Amaze supports parent carers. We also offer:

- Helpline
- Publications and website
- Help with education issues
- Workshops and training
- Support with transition to adult services
- The Compass leisure discount card

Helpline: 01273 772289

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 12 noon
plus in term-time: Tuesdays 12 noon to 5 pm *and*
Thursday evenings 5.30pm to 8pm.

You can leave a message or email
helpline@amazebrighton.org.uk at any time.

Amaze

Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton BN1 3XG
Tel: 01273 772289
Email: info@amazebrighton.org.uk
www.amazebrighton.org.uk



Getting help with claiming DLA



Impartial • Practical • Confidential

For parents of children in Brighton & Hove
with special needs or disabilities

How can Amaze help with DLA?

Filling in a claim form for DLA can be very daunting. Parents are often put off by the length and complexity of the form or worry that their child doesn't have a diagnosis or that their needs are not significant enough. But we know that many children with special needs are entitled to DLA. And, when you consider that awards are worth several thousand pounds a year, you begin to see that it really is worth the effort.

Amaze works to make the whole process of claiming DLA easier for families. We can offer advice and support via our helpline, send you detailed notes to help you complete the form yourself, or – if you're really struggling – one of our DLA volunteers may be able to meet with you to fill it in.

If your child is aged 16 to 19, we can also offer the same kind of support to claim Personal Independence Payments (PIP).



What is a DLA volunteer?

Amaze has a small team of trained volunteers who can meet with you and help you fill in your child's DLA form. They will work through the form page by page with you, help you think about examples that best illustrate the extra help your child needs. They can help you gather evidence and make sense of reports. They can even write or type the form with you if that makes it easier.

'My volunteer teased it all out...gave it language... could make the links that I just couldn't see by myself.'

Our volunteers know it's a difficult process – many of them have children with special needs themselves – so they give you space to talk and celebrate your child too.

'I've got a BA and an MA. I'm educated and articulate and I couldn't do it.'



How do you get a DLA volunteer?

Parents should call our helpline on **01273 772289** and talk to one of our advisers first. We may be able to give you the support you need over the phone. If not, you will be referred to our DLA Project Manager who will match you up with a volunteer from the team.

Health visitors, therapists, social workers and Job Centre Plus often recommend our service to parents. It helps if a parent contacts us directly themselves. However, if you know that a parent will have difficulty calling, we are happy to make the first contact as long as you get their permission to make a referral.