



Portage Service

Information for Professionals

The service

Portage is a home teaching service for pre-school children (0 to 5 years) whose learning and development is significantly delayed. A trained Portage home visitor will visit the home on a weekly or fortnightly basis and work alongside parents or carers to provide structured activities that will stimulate their child's development and support early learning.

The service also supports children with social communication difficulties or autism through our Portage Plus which consists of up to six home visits and a visit to their Early Years setting if appropriate.

Portage is based on the principle of partnership with parents and this is reflected in the high level of parental involvement in planning and carrying out teaching activities.

Portage home visitors work jointly with other professionals involved in the child's care, health and education to ensure a holistic service is given to children and their families.

The Portage Service also offers targeted group activities on a weekly basis for identified children.

The service is made up of five part time Portage home visitors that cover Kingston and Richmond and a part time (2.5) service co-coordinator.

Referrals

Portage has an open referral policy and parents and professionals can refer children (0 to 5 years) for consideration. The Portage Service runs during school term time only, until the child is accessing their 3 year old early education funding for 15 hours in a pre-school or nursery setting.

Families are visited shortly after referral and a full explanation of the Portage approach is given. The commitment of the Portage home visitor and the family is also discussed.

Criteria for referral

- Children (0 to 5 years) must live in Kingston or Richmond boroughs.
- Children must have significant delay in two or more areas of their development.

How to refer

To make a referral to the Portage Service please complete the referral form that is available on the AfCinfo website (www.afcinfo.org.uk) or email the Portage coordinator.

The Portage Service in Achieving for Children is registered with the National Portage Association.



W: www.portage.org.uk

For further information contact:

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