



Portage Service

Information for parents

Portage is a home teaching and support service for families with babies and young children with special educational needs and disabilities

What is Portage?

Portage is a home teaching service for pre-school children (0 to 5 years) who have significant developmental delay.

Where do we start?

Portage has an open referral policy, and parents or professionals can refer children for consideration.

Families who meet the criteria for the Portage Service will be visited shortly after referral by the Portage co-ordinator who will explain in detail what is involved.

How does Portage work?

A trained Portage Home Visitor visits you at home each week or fortnight to listen and develop ideas with you on how to stimulate your child's development and discuss play and learning activities.

Together you decide how to break down certain skills into small, easily taught steps, which are then practised between visits. We will work in conjunction with other support agencies and early year's settings to ensure we support your child's needs.

We offer a tailored service (Portage Plus) for children whose needs are primarily around social communication needs.

The Portage Service operates during term time only.

Why at home?

Home is the natural and most comfortable place for a child. It is where most early learning takes place.

What if we work?

If you are working and your child is under 3 years old and in daycare you can still receive home visits, but these will be arranged during normal working hours.

Can we still do other things?

Other activities, for example, being part of a local pre-school group or services like physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and family support continue as normal.

Who else needs to know?

Portage home visitors always work in co-operation with other professionals involved with you and your child. With your consent, they will share information and may carry out joint visits. This is to ensure that we are all working together to plan activities that are best suited to all your child's needs.

When will Portage stop?

Portage continues until your child attends a pre-school or nursery and receives 15 hours a week of 3 year old funded early education. Home visits will also stop if your child no longer needs the service.

When your child starts pre-school or nursery, your Portage home visitor will liaise with the key staff and offer support during the transition period.



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For further information contact:

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