

In order to deliver an effective service, Early Years SEN Advisory Team adheres to the London Borough of Bromley's policies and procedures.

Early Years SEN Advisory Team

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Bromley Portage Service

Our aims are:

A home visiting educational service for pre-school children who have additional support needs and their families.

- To work in partnership with parents/carers to encourage the child's interests and make learning fun for all the family.
- To help build on a child's abilities and strengths, rather than focus on difficulties.
- To support the right of each child to be included and participate in our community.



Vision Statement:

"All working together to enhance the lives of children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families."

What is Bromley Portage

Portage is part of the Early Years SEN Advisory Team which is a central service run by the London Borough of Bromley.

It is a home visiting educational service for pre-school children who have Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND).

The Portage Service liaises with other agencies, e.g. health service professionals and supports a child's transition into preschool as needed.

The Bromley Portage Service is registered with the National Portage Association.

Referral criteria

Children who have a delay or needs in two or more areas of development or a diagnosis which may suggest this and who live in the London Borough of Bromley.

Ways to refer

The service operates an open referral system (all referrals must have parental agreement) and referral forms can be accessed at:

www.bromley.gov.uk

and search for: Early Years Targeted and Specialist Services

Portage helps children

LEARN...COMMUNICATE...EXPLORE...DISCOVER...

A trained Portage Home Visitor will

- Come to the house on a regular basis.
- Listen, share and then plan with parents/carers to agree specific learning goals designed to meet the child's individual needs, in liaison with other involved professionals.
- Lend appropriate toys and equipment from our extensive toy library so parents can continue with activities between visits.

The family will

- Become fully involved in the learning process as parent/carer partners. This will include creating a positive learning environment and minimizing distractions, for example turning off devices and media and keeping pets out of the room.

The child will

- Benefit from learning in the most natural environment for all early learning—the home.
- Have the opportunity to enjoy new play experiences at home.

The family and the Portage Home Visitor will

- Identify what is important to the family and their child and work with them to plan goals for learning and participation.
- Establish activities that can be practised between visits, the activity representing a small step towards one of the planned goals.
- Keep a shared record of the child's progress.
- Work together to plan the next stage in your child's education e.g. to nursery and preschool and support further assessments as appropriate.