

Portage Service

Early Years Inclusion Team



The Early Years Inclusion Team provides an early intervention and advice service for children with a wide range of special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families. Portage is part of this team.

What is Portage?

Portage can be offered following an initial piece of work. 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, such as health service professionals, and supports a child's transition into preschool as needed

The keystone of all Portage practice is partnership, placing children and families at the centre and working with parents as the senior partner and lead educators.

Our Portage Service follows the Portage principles and is registered with the National Portage Association (NPA).

**Portage helps children to
LEARN...COMMUNICATE...EXPLORE...DISCOVER...**

Vision Statement

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



A trained Portage Home Visitor will plan regular home visits to:

- Listen to, 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.
- Suggest play activities to support the child's progress, lending resources as needed.

The family will:

- Become fully involved in the learning process as parent/carer partners. This will include creating a positive learning environment and minimising distractions, for example, turning off devices and media and keeping pets out of the room.
- Be quick to respond to any changes to learning and will adjust and adapt activities to ensure success.

The child will:

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

The family and the Portage Home Visitor together will:

- Identify what is important to the family and their child and 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 to plan the next stage in your child's education such as moving to nursery/ preschool and to support further assessments as appropriate.

Referral criteria

Children who have a delay or needs in two or more areas of development, who live in the London Borough of Bromley and are not in a preschool setting.

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. If a referral is accepted there will be an initial visit to gather information from the family.

To get in touch



Email:

earlyyearsinclusionteam@bromley.gov.uk



Address:

**Phoenix Children's Resource Centre
40 Masons Hill
Bromley
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Website: www.bromley.gov.uk

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