

Who is the Portage Home Visitor?

A Portage Home Visitor is someone who has experience of working with young children. All our Portage Home Visitors have completed the National Portage Association's recognised training and follow their Code of Practice.



What if other services are provided?

Portage can easily fit in alongside other services your child may already receive such as Physiotherapy or Speech Therapy. Joint home visits are often carried out.



What else do we offer Portage Families?

Social events, including:

- Weekly fun time groups and regular outings
- Access to a Sensory Room
- Infant Massage/TAC PAC (an early Communication method)
- Referral to other Services
- Regular assessment of your child's development
- Long Term goals are set and reports provided which are then updated every six months.
- An ICAN photographic journal for each child. (A photograph booklet that forms part of the child's transition into an education setting, demonstrating their skills)
- Keyworker role for an Education, Health and Care Plan assessment request
- Regular attendance at meetings for your child
- Nursery transition support
- Support in applying for eligible funding/Disability living allowance/Family fund etc applications
- Parent training opportunities in toilet training children with additional needs, sleep support and positive behaviour workshops.
- Nursery keyworker two- day training, also accessible by parents/carers.

Bexley Portage Service



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Kelly Wilkinson, Senior Portage Worker,
Acorns, Children and young person services
Queen Marys Hospital, Frognal Avenue,
Sidcup DA14 6LT
Kelly.Wilkinson@bexley.gov.uk
07815584407

Follow us



If you would like the information in this document in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/ Graphics. The reference to quote is: 607463.11.2023

Portage is a Home Education service for pre-school aged children with complex additional needs and their family.

Introduction

Babies and young children enjoy learning, but some need more time, help and encouragement.

This is where Portage can help.

This leaflet provides answers to some of the questions parents and carers ask about Portage



How does it work?

A Portage Home Visitor works in partnership with parents/carers and other professionals who may also see your child.

Portage is a positive way of learning and builds on what the child can already do and what they enjoy.

Skills can be broken down into small steps so they can be made into achievable activities.



What does it involve?

A Portage Home Visitor will be allocated to work with you and your child. They will be able to offer fortnightly input in the form of a targeted play session or completing further referrals with you or attending meetings in place to support your child's development.

The Portage Home Visitor will bring toys each visit and together you can decide on what you would like your child to learn.



Why at home?

Home is where you and your child will be comfortable and where there is time and opportunity for learning through play activities.

Parents/carers are usually the best people to teach their children new skills, this can be an enjoyable time in familiar surroundings.

Who can refer?

Bexley Portage Service have an open referral system, Any-one can refer to our service, parents/carers, or professionals.



What is Portage?

Portage is a home teaching service for pre-school children whose progress is delayed for whatever reason.

Portage is named after a town in Wisconsin, U.S.A. where the scheme was first developed.

Portage is a free service and is funded by London Borough of Bexley.

How long will it last?

Portage normally continues until your child is three years of age and attending a nursery/Childminding setting. If London Borough of Bexley provides support at any other Education support, for example: BEAS (Bexley Early Autism Service) Portage home visits will discontinue, however your child will still have access to our weekly fun-time sessions.