



Portage Service

Who are the portage service?

Portage workers are trained Early Years Practitioners who are experienced in Special Educational Needs. We work with parents and carers to provide development and learning support for children aged 0-4 years who may have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

As parents and carers, you are central to your child's learning and Portage will work in partnership with you to support your child's development.

How we work

We work primarily in the family home, or in a community space alongside other families, to model and deliver play-based activities personalised to your child's needs.

We'll listen to you and gather information about your child's needs and strengths. We'll explore skills that you want your child to learn and plan approaches that you can use to support your child to continue to develop. We'll discuss and model play and ways of interacting that further strengthen relationships and support child development. We work within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and use a developmental tool to plan next steps and monitor and record progress.

We work closely with settings in Barnsley and are able to support you in identifying a setting for your child and planning your child's next steps into nursery. We'll support you in developing an 'All about me' for your child to share with the nursery when planning for transition. In preparation for nursery, we can facilitate small group sessions to provide children with a safe space to play and learn alongside other families who are working with us.

What parents and carers say about us

'As a parent my views were always listened to and our Portage worker always made sure we worked together on next steps for my child.'

'Portage has given us the chance to see our child's progress in all those little steps and achievements.'

'Portage has given us many ideas to try with our child and he's doing great and making progress.'

'We are so pleased with the report Portage have written about our son for nursery and know it will be really useful to help staff support him.'

'Portage involvement has 100% helped my son in his development. The work Portage did with us has been fantastic and my son is continuing to make progress.'