



## NATIONAL PORTAGE ASSOCIATION

# Portage and Early Years Development Day

at

**The Priory Rooms, Meeting and Conference Centre**

**40 Bull Street Birmingham B4 6AF**

**0121 236 2317**

on

**Friday 15 November 2019**

The National Portage Association (NPA) would like to invite you to attend a Portage and Early Years Development Day.

This Development Day has not been themed but in line with feedback from last year will include a range of topics.

Registration will start at 10.30am with the Welcome at 11.00am. Refreshments will be available on arrival. The day will offer the opportunity to attend two seminars and include time for networking. The Keynote Presentation will be given by John Parry and Jonty Rix.

### *Keynote Presentation*

#### **In-the-Picture - Delivered by John Parry and Jonty Rix**

John is a Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood at the Open University and whilst being a Portage Home Visitor for 20 years served two terms as chair of the NPA. Jonty is Professor of Participation and Learning Support at the Open University and the Inland Norwegian University of Applied Sciences. He has also been a Portage parent rep locally and on the NPA board. John and Jonty have been working with In-the-Picture since 2008 when it emerged from a research project funded by the British Academy. In-the-Picture is a very simple and flexible, observational approach which helps practitioners to recognise and explore the experiences of very young disabled children in a variety of contexts

#### About the Keynote Speech:

The Keynote Speech will launch a free online training course for practitioners introducing them to In-the-Picture and how it can be used to improve their practice. John and Jonty have produced this course with support from the Department for Education and the NPA.

The Speech will cover the background to In-the-Picture and broader reflections from their research project with Portage services about their uses of this observational tool. Some interesting themes emerged from talking to practitioners about home visits, child lead play and expectations. People also talked about how In-the-Picture created a space for them to step back and reflect amongst the daily pressures of delivering home support. John and Jonty will also introduce plans for future collaborative opportunities for individuals and services, to explore how Portage practitioners can use In-the-Picture to support children's transitions and encourage good practice in other childhood services.

## *Seminar Choices*

### **Autism and Developing Social Understanding in the Early Years**

**Delivered by Tania Wagstaff & Claire Brinkley from Autism Specialists**

#### About this seminar:

This is an opportunity for participants to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the difficulties young children with autism experience with social understanding and why.

We will examine early brain development and consequence differences in the cognitive styles of children with autism. There will be a focus on Theory of Mind.

Finally we will look at two very successful strategies (social scripts and Comic Strip Conversations – Carol Gray) that you can use to support the development of social understanding in young children. Both these strategies are ideal to model for parents so that other family members can use them within the home.

#### About Tania and Claire:

Tania's previous experience includes working as an Autism Advisory Teacher for a Local Authority across Early Years and Primary settings, both in Special and Mainstream schools to senior manager levels. She has a wealth of experience of working with a range of needs and has achieved Autism qualifications in various strategies to support professionals and parents. Tania is also a Qualified Sendco, specialising in autism in the Early Years and Primary phase.

Claire's previous experience has included developing and leading an Autism Base, achieving Advance Skills Teacher status for autism, running a well-regarded and highly successful Autism Advisory Service for the Local Authority and presenting at National Conferences. She has worked in both Special Schools and mainstream, Primary and Secondary. She has supported strategic development of provision for autism across Local Authorities and has a Post Graduate qualification in Autism from Birmingham University.

Together, Tania and Claire have a wealth of skills and experience of working with children, families, education, and local authorities. They moved into the independent sector to ensure the work they deliver is relevant, targeted and bespoke to the needs of individuals, staff and families. They passionately believe in early intervention and long term independence.

To contact them and find out more please visit: [www.autismspecialist.co.uk](http://www.autismspecialist.co.uk)



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### **A Right to Grieve: Understanding and Communicating with Grieving Families**

**Delivered by Beck Ferrari - Child Bereavement Services**

About this seminar:

Families of children with SEND may face many challenges, often having to cope with grief and loss. As professionals we strive to deliver the best services possible, but in the face of the pain of a grieving family it can be hard to feel confident that 'our best' is enough. This seminar will explore key aspects of grief for families: physiological, cognitive, emotional and practical and the specific needs of families of children with SEND. It will explore how we can use our skills to help us grow in confidence to manage our communication when supporting grieving adults and children.

About Beck:

Beck Ferrari is an experienced independent specialist teacher and therapist. She has a background in education as a teacher and SENCo as well considerable experience in running a child bereavement service for the Local Education Authority. She has worked with children and young people of all ages and abilities, including children with Learning Disabilities and Autistic Spectrum Conditions, in over 80 mainstream and special schools, pre-schools and colleges. She runs a range of well received training courses supporting adults to provide the best possible care and support to children and young people facing grief, family change and other struggles which may adversely impact on their wellbeing. Beck's MSc in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Children and Young People through UCL and the Anna Freud Centre enabled her to research working with children around trauma including those with SEND.

### **Understanding and supporting emotional regulation in children with language and communication difficulties**

**Delivered by Andrew Ryder, a highly specialist speech and language therapist**

About this seminar:

We know that many children with language and social communication difficulties experience issues with emotional regulation, which can be incredibly stressful and distressing for the child and those around the child such as parents and education staff. Difficulties with emotional regulation can often be seen as behaviour, which is often mentioned as a concern by those around the child so we'll discuss how the triad of behaviour, language or communication difficulties and emotional regulation difficulties relate and how we can support/develop these skills.

About Andrew:

Andrew has experience in working with pre-school children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and social communication difficulties. He is currently working in the NHS in Trafford within an intervention and diagnostic role and is fortunate to have worked closely with hundreds of children and their families in home and education settings.

Email: [andrew.ryder@nhs.net](mailto:andrew.ryder@nhs.net)

### Understanding Sleep Issues.

Delivered by Helen Rutherford from The Children's Sleep Charity

#### About this seminar:

We know that many children with a Special Educational Need or Disability experience sleep issues. We will explore why sleep issues may occur, strategies to support improving them and share evidence around the success of using a behavioural approach to sleep. This seminar is suitable for anybody who has or works with a child who has a sleep issue.

#### About Helen

Helen Rutherford has over 30 years' experience of working with families and children with significant additional needs. She managed a Portage service for 12 years and is a Signalong tutor.

She is a Sleep Practitioner for The Children's Sleep Charity and delivers training and support nationally. She led the charity's NHS England funded autism and sleep project and is passionate about supporting children to get a good night's sleep.

Email: [info@thechildrenssleepcharity.org.uk](mailto:info@thechildrenssleepcharity.org.uk)

### *The Venue*

**The Priory Rooms**, Meeting and Conference Centre is situated in the centre of Birmingham and is easily accessed on foot from the three mainline stations – Birmingham New Street (approx. 10 minutes), Birmingham Moor Street (approx.. 7 minutes) and Birmingham Snow Hill (approx. 2 minutes) *See walking routes from these stations on Priory Rooms website – Find us.*

By car – Birmingham is central to the UK's motorway network, with the M1, M5, M6, M40 & M42 all connecting to the city. There is limited disabled only parking at the centre (this needs to be prearranged with the centre) but The Priory Rooms offers delegates a discounted rate at a nearby Londonderry House NCP car park on Dalton Street – *See Priory Rooms website – Parking Page for more information.*

Hotels – There are a number of hotels located within Birmingham City centre all of which are just a short walk from the Priory Rooms – *See Priory Rooms website for the hotels with which they have a preferential rate for delegates.*

### *Fee*

The cost of the day is £95.00+VAT for NPA members and £110+VAT for non-members, including refreshments and a buffet lunch.

### *Bookings*

A Booking Form with seminar choices form for each person wishing to attend should be completed and returned to: *Christine Breese, NPA Office Manager by email to*

[conference@portage.org.uk](mailto:conference@portage.org.uk)

*or post to*

*National Portage Association, Kings Court, 17 School Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8JG*

**Bookings should be submitted by Friday 20 September 2019**



## NATIONAL PORTAGE ASSOCIATION

Invoices will be raised following receipt of booking forms and sent to the address given. Seminar choices will be confirmed on the day. See terms and conditions of booking below.

NPA terms and conditions of booking:

- Second invoices issued to a different name and/or address will be subject to a charge of £5 per invoice.
- Full payment of the fee should be received within 30 days of the invoice.
- If a place is cancelled 30 days prior to the date of conference, a fee of £50 will be deducted from monies returned.
- In the event of a place being cancelled less than 30 days before the event, there will be no refund and the full cost of the place will be charged.
- By completing and returning a Booking Form, applicants agree to the terms and conditions stated here.

*We look forward to welcoming you to the day!*

**National Portage Association**  
Partners with Parents and Children  
**Registered Office: Kings Court, 17 School Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 8JG**  
**0121 244 1807**