

Norfolk Portage

A free home education service for pre-school children with additional and special needs



For more information about Portage, please contact:

Norfolk Portage Service

Virtual School Sensory Support
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 **Norfolk** County Council

Portage is part of our support system for children with additional and special educational needs.



01-03-16-2-1068/15/TM

Portage

If you need this information in large print, or in an alternative version, please contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020.



What is it?

Portage is a free home visiting educational service for pre-school children with additional support needs and their families. Children may have developmental or learning difficulties, a physical disability or other special need.

Aim

Portage aims to support the development of young children's play, communication, relationships and full participation in day to day life within the family and the wider community. Support offered through Portage is based on the principle that parents are the key figures in the care and development of their child and Portage aims to help parents to be confident in this role whatever their child's needs may be.

How is Portage delivered?

After an initial assessment by a senior Portage Worker, a trained Home Visitor is introduced to the family and will call weekly by arrangement with the family, for approximately one hour.

The Home Visitor gives practical help through play activities so that parents can develop their own child's learning.

The home visits are used to discuss and record the child's progress, to select a task to teach and work out the best way of helping the child achieve it. Often the Home Visitor and parents break the task down into small steps to make learning easier.

The Home Visitor will work in conjunction with other support agencies and also help you liaise with nurseries, school and other early years settings.

Parental Involvement

Parents and carers are the best and most effective teacher of their young child and the Portage Home Visitor works in partnership with parents.

We encourage parents to say what they think are the most important skills their child should be learning.

Once the Home Visitor and the parents have agreed on a task and tried it, the parents then practice this task with their child for a few minutes each day and records on progress on a chart provided by the Home Visitor.

Parents are free to stop Portage at any time, but Portage may continue until the child is involved with other activities outside the home for four sessions a week or more.

