The range of support available from the Portage and SEND Early Years Team:

• Advice and support with the Statutory Assessment process or criteria for Education Health and Care Plan
• Specific information and advice to a family or setting for an individual child
• Support and advice at times of transition for example when a child is moving to a new setting or school
• Visits and support/advice to staff in Early Years settings for a named child including support to set educational targets
• Advice, monitor and review in home or Early Years setting
• Regular home teaching sessions from a Portage Visitor
• Loan of toys and equipment to encourage development
• Signposting to other services and supports

All outcomes and involvement will be reviewed continuously with both family and Early Years setting.

What shall I do if I am unsure?

Have a look at our eligibility criteria first and if you are unsure about whether our services are needed, you can contact us for general advice and information.

Northampton: 01604 364770
Kettering: 01064 361416

Useful website links:

• National Portage Association:
  www.portage.org.uk/
• Information Advice Support Service for SEND in Northamptonshire:
  www.iassnorthants.co.uk
• Local Offer Northamptonshire:
  www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer
• Special Needs Index and Newsletters:
  www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/snix

Other website links:

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk
www.spurgeons.org/
www.actionforchildren.org.uk
www.kids.org.uk
www.parentsofdisabledchildren.co.uk
www.4children.org.uk
What does the team do?
The Portage and SEND Early Years Team supports children aged 0 - 4 who have additional educational needs, developmental delay or disability.

The role of the team is to empower and support families and Early Years settings, pre-schools, playgroups, nurseries or childminders to:

- Build on each child’s individual strengths and to identify next steps for their development
- Encourage children’s social interaction with their peers and adults
- Fully include children in a range of Early Years activities

The team will work with families and settings to agree learning and developmental objectives and Individual Education Targets and support families and settings to review and monitor these.

We promote learning through play.

We have specific eligibility criteria for children to access our team and these can be found by going to:

http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/portage

The team works closely alongside other colleagues including Educational Psychologists, Autism Outreach Team and specialist teachers for those with Sensory Impairment.

Who is in the team?
The team has two bases, one in Northampton for the south of the county and one in Kettering for the north of the county.

The team has a number of roles within it including:

- Senior Portage and SEND Manager
- Senior Portage and Early Years SEND Officers
- Senior Portage and SEND Early Years Outreach Workers
- Volunteer Portage Visitors (who are fully trained)

How can I request involvement for a child?
An online form needs to be completed to request involvement; this form can be found at:

http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/portage

Supporting documents to give extra information about the child can be attached online.

Once the team has received the information about the child, we will decide how quickly we are able to respond. This decision will be made based on the information provided. The family of the child and the referrer will be notified of the timescale.

Our initial contact may involve a visit to meet the child and family. This may take place in the home or an Early Years setting and is usually a joint visit with a colleague.

After the visit we will jointly agree with the family and Early Years setting (if applicable):

- The next steps the family would like to take
- Level of involvement based on the needs of the child and family

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/portage

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