

## Portage Outreach

Outreach is a service offered by Portage to early years settings for any child whose development causes concern at Early Years Action Plus.

Some of these children will meet the developmental criteria for Core Portage but will not be eligible for the home visiting service because they attend an early years setting for more than four sessions per week.

## What does Outreach offer to early years settings?

- Help in assessing the existing skill level of individual children within the group.
- Suggestions on how to plan to facilitate further progress through the group.
- Advice on how to monitor and follow-up progress.

## What further benefits are there?

The Outreach worker can:

- work with the setting to offer support and guidance to meet the individual needs of the child
- meet with setting staff and parents/carers to ensure consistency of support to the child
- liaise with other professionals such as educational psychologists, therapists, to help settings meet the needs of the child
- be available to support the setting in transition planning.

## Request for support:

The following criteria should be met (to work with a named child):

1. the child is pre-school aged, as young as possible
2. the setting is registered with Services for Young Children
3. the child is identified as being at Early Years Action Plus
4. a parental signature has been obtained, giving consent to the referral.

For further information on Portage or to request support, please contact your local team:

### Havant

Mill Hill Children's Centre,  
Mill Road, Waterlooville  
PO7 7DB  
Tel: 023 9226 1057

### Fareham & Gosport

The Haven Children's Centre,  
Harris Road, Bridgemary,  
Gosport  
PO13 0UY  
Tel: 01329 283498

### New Forest

Child & Family Health  
Centre, Ashurst Hospital  
Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst  
SO40 7AR  
Tel: 02380 293768

### Basingstoke

49 Cliddesden Road,  
Basingstoke  
RG21 3ET  
Tel: 01256 359002

### North East Hampshire

Cranford Park Primary  
School,  
Stilwell Close, Yateley  
GU46 6XH  
Tel: 01252 878967

### East Hampshire

Bushy Leaze Children's  
Centre, Eastbrooke Road,  
Alton  
GU34 2DR  
Tel: 01420 80862

### Test Valley

Acorns Children's Centre,  
Vigo Road, Andover  
SP10 1JZ  
Tel: 01264 361457

### Eastleigh & Winchester

The Aviary Children's Centre,  
Blackbird Road, Eastleigh  
SO50 9JW  
Tel: 023 8065 1983

The Portage Service works in partnership with the Childcare and Family Information Team (CFIT) providing free, impartial information and guidance regarding childcare and related services for families. Contact CFIT on Tel: 0845 603 5620

Email: [childcare@hants.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@hants.gov.uk)

Web: [www.hants.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.hants.gov.uk/childcare)

Search the Family Information Directory:  
[www.fid.hants.gov.uk](http://www.fid.hants.gov.uk)



A Portage Service registered  
with the National Portage  
Association.



## Hampshire Portage Service

Portage: a service for children  
with additional needs from birth  
to school age



Hampshire  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

# Hampshire Portage Service

## What is Portage?

The Portage approach was originally developed for parents in a town called Portage, Wisconsin in the USA in the early 1970s and introduced to the UK in 1976.

The Portage way of working involves:

- partnership with parents, carers and other professionals with a commitment to inclusion
- empowering parents to build on their child's successes using a positive approach
- using small steps to support learning
- learning through play and having fun
- working together and celebrating achievements with the child and their family.

Portage has a long successful track record of supporting families of pre-school children with significant developmental delay or behaviour difficulties.

Portage home visitors are experienced early years practitioners who have expertise in understanding, recognising and developing the individual needs of every child.

## Working in partnership

Portage is a partnership between child, parent and Portage home visitor. For Portage to be effective parents/carers should be committed to carrying out agreed activities/strategies consistently.

Portage is at its most effective when the Portage home visitor works closely with all those involved with the child, for example therapists, health visitors, educational psychologists and early years settings. This helps to ensure that everyone works towards shared common goals.

## Core Portage

Core Portage is for children who have a significant delay in their development.

Families will usually receive regular visits by their Portage home visitor. Parents/carers are recognised to know their child best and Portage builds on this knowledge. The Portage home visitor will work with families to plan fun activities so that the child learns new skills in small steps.

Portage home visitors can liaise with early years settings and schools to ensure a smooth transition for the child where appropriate.

### Request for support:

The following criteria should be met:

1. the child is pre-school aged, as young as possible and has at least a term before entering school
2. the child is delayed by approximately one third of its age in two different developmental or skill areas, or has a recognised syndrome or additional needs which are likely to lead to a delay
3. the child's parent/primary carer must agree to be available to meet with the Portage home visitor on a regular basis
4. a parental signature has been obtained, giving consent to the referral
5. if your child attends an early years setting this may affect the type of support Portage is able to offer but will be discussed with you by a Portage team manager.

## Portage Plus

Portage Plus is for families of pre-school children with significant behaviour difficulties. This support extends to the early years setting that the child attends.

We visit the child through a combination of weekly visits to the home or early years setting in order to:

- identify specific areas of concern about behaviour and develop an understanding of why difficult behaviour occurs
- empower parents/carers by suggesting strategies to support their child
- support the child's social and emotional development
- develop the child's self-esteem
- support the child to accept routines and boundaries.

If appropriate, prior to school entry the Portage home visitor will make links with the child's primary school and other agencies to ensure a successful transition.

### Request for support:

The following criteria should be met:

1. the child is presenting with challenging behaviour, over and above that expected for a child of his/her developmental age
2. the child is a risk to themselves or others at home or in their early years setting
3. reluctance by an early years setting to accept a child because of concerns about his/her behaviour
4. reluctance to send a child to an early years setting because of concerns about behaviour

and

- the parent/carers is committed to support the intervention
- the early years setting is committed to the intervention
- following an initial visit, the Portage team manager recommends that the child/family is appropriate for Portage Plus.