

Information for parents, carers and
professionals: Children, Adults and Families

Wigan Portage Service





What is Portage?

Portage is a home teaching service for young children, who have an additional need. It supports children's development by helping parents and children to play and learn together.

Building firm foundations for learning and development is important. The following is a summary of what families can expect from portage home visits:

Child led play

Time spent during the home visit that is essentially child led. Flexibility is central.

Responding to child led play

- Observing the child's initiatives.
- Sharing interactions focusing on the child's priorities and intentions.
- Discussing/celebrating the child's

independence and active learning.

- Recording significant play observations.

Generalising newly acquired skills

- Discussing the child's use of a new skill.
- Introducing new play ideas.
- Integrating play into family routines.

Discussing play with parents

- Extending play opportunities at home and outdoors.
- Play with other children.
- Keeping a family record (photographs, video and diaries).



Where next?

Planning for play.

Structured teaching

Time spent reviewing and planning portage teaching activities. It covers key elements of the precision teaching structure used to support the child's learning.

What has happened since the last visit?

- Checking what the child has learned.
- Celebrating success.
- Identifying barriers to learning.

What to do next?

- Deciding if further practice is needed.
- Deciding if the activity needs changing.
- Negotiating a new teaching activity.

Trying out a new activity

- Exploring ideas with the child.
- Noting the child's response.
- Agreeing and modelling the activity.
- Deciding on frequency of practice.
- Writing activity chart or other record.
- Recording baseline information.

Family focus

Parent led aspects of the visit where time is spent sharing and addressing family priorities.

Sharing daily experiences/ routines

- Sharing family day (good times-hard times).
- Sharing pleasure.
- Highlighting positive experiences.
- Sharing family priorities.

Addressing need - looking forward

- Determining priority needs and discussing possible ways forward.
- Sharing problem solving strategies.

- Discussing action and how to access support.

Sharing information

- Sharing knowledge of local child and family opportunities.
- Sharing skills, knowledge and experience.

Empowering parents

- Promoting inclusion.
- Addressing barriers to accessing local opportunities for families and young children.

Where next?

Planning transition to nursery/ school.

The criteria for the Portage Service is:

- The child lives in the Wigan borough area;
- is under 3 years;
- has additional development needs in two or more areas;
- is accessing less than 10 hours of Early Years provision.



We can make this information available in other formats and languages on request.

For further information contact:

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