

How do I get in touch?

With your permission, your child's Paediatrician, GP, Health Visitor or any other practitioner involved can refer to the Portage Team using the Access and Response *referral form*. Alternatively, parents can refer directly to Access Response Team (01454 866000)

Please note that we operate a waiting list and a referral does not automatically guarantee a Portage service

For further information please contact:

South Gloucestershire Council
Department Children, Adults & Health
Portage Service
Early Years Team
PO Box 1955, Bristol, BS37 5AF

Tel: 01454 863812
Email: elaine.davey@southglos.gov.uk



Portage Service



Information for Parents & Carers



Registered with the National Portage Association

What is Portage?

Portage is predominantly a home visiting service for pre-school children who have additional needs. Portage assesses the development of the child and, in partnership with parents and carers, builds on the child's existing abilities, using the small steps to learning approach.

We also offer support to parents and carers through our First Steps, Next Steps and Step by Step groups.

Who is it for?



It is for any child of pre-school age living in South Gloucestershire, who is significantly delayed in two or more developmental areas.

Who offers the service?

Portage is funded by South Gloucestershire Local Authority and forms part of the Early Years Team. They visit you at home regularly - but it is you and the rest of the family who will carry out the play and teaching activities in between visits.

What happens during a visit?

During the first couple of visits, you and your Home Visitor will use a developmental journal to look at and record your child's current development. With this as a starting point, you and your Home Visitor agree together long-term goals and activities to encourage your child to work toward next steps in development.

During a visit, you and your child will show your Home Visitor the activity you have been working on and discuss this. Your Home Visitor will then play with

Appendix 1.

Will I need any special equipment?

The Portage Service has a large range of toys and resources, which will be available to you and your child. Your Home Visitor will bring all the toys needed for each activity, which you will then be able to borrow for as long as required.

Will there be a record of our work?



Your Home Visitor will record each visit in a diary. This is then left for you to record how the agreed activity has progressed.



What if my child cannot cope with the Portage activities?

All activities are designed for each child's individual stage of development. New skills are broken down into small, achievable steps. The emphasis of Portage is on the positive - building on each child's current skills and individual needs; and celebrating every achievement each child makes.

your child, talk with you about his/her development and offer further ideas. Visits last approximately one and a half hours.

Together you will agree on activities for you to carry out until the next visit. Your child's current development and progress towards the long-term goals will be reviewed.



**What happens between
visits?**

At home, it is you who will carry out the agreed activities until the next visit. The Portage Team attend regular team meetings together with the Portage Supervisor, to discuss the progress of all the children receiving Portage. Your Home Visitor will also liaise with other professionals involved with your child e.g. Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists and may visit your child's pre-school to offer advice and support to the staff. Your Home Visitor can also provide support and advice during your child's transition to pre-school or school.