Portage Pre-School Support Service (PPS) - Dorset Council

Portage Pre-School Support Service (PPS) supports children and families at any time from birth to the end of the first term at school. We work in partnership with early years settings. A portage consultant visits you regularly in your home or your child's early years setting. They discuss and plan appropriate learning experiences with parents and early years practitioners. These experiences support your child to enjoy learning through play. Children who use this service may have a range of educational or medical needs. We understand that needs change over time, so the level and type of support needs to change to meet these needs.

Contact
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Venue
Venue address County Hall (South Annexe) Colliton Park Dorchester Dorset
Postcode DT1 1XJ

Service Details
Additional Information We have 2 teams of portage consultants in Dorset. They work with different professionals during their involvement with your child and family. These professionals can include: early years practitioner, educational psychologist, speech and language therapist (SALT), physiotherapist, occupational therapist and health visitors. Alternatively you can visit the national portage site at www.portage.org.uk.
Referral information Health professionals and early years settings usually make requests for involvement. If you have concerns about your child as a parent, you can contact the portage service yourself.
Age Range Details 0 to 5.
Age Range 0 years 0 months to 5 years 0 months

Early Education
Free early education places 15 Hours For 2 year olds No What is this? 15 Hours For 3 & 4 year olds No What is this? 30 Hours For 3 & 4 year olds No What is this?

Record Last Updated 12/04/2019
Dorset Portage Pre-school Learning Support Service offers specialist educational support to very young children and families at home and also during the period of transition from Early Years setting to school. Portage Consultants work with children and in partnership with families by providing individual play and learning plans that help navigate the journey that leads to full time education. Portage Consultants closely liaise with other professionals – Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, Paediatricians and Health Visitors. The Consultants attend or co-ordinate planning meetings to secure the best possible outcomes for children right up until they approach school age. All staff are qualified and experienced in Early Years and education and are fully trained in a range of specialist teaching approaches to support early learning and development. Consultants offer a range of training in specialist approaches to learning to Early Years settings.

**Eligibility**

Babies and children who have identified complex learning and communication difficulties, and/or complex medical conditions that impact on their development, e.g., global developmental delay or a specific syndrome, are likely to be eligible for support. When support has been agreed, a Portage Consultant begins working in partnership with parents and other involved professionals to empower parents to successfully reach short term outcomes appropriate to their child’s needs, which are agreed with parents and reviewed regularly throughout our involvement.

**Access**

When a request for involvement has been received from an involved professional with parents’ agreement, the Portage Consultant will make contact to arrange initial assessment visits either at home or at the Early Years setting. If continued involvement is agreed to be appropriate progress and future involvement is reviewed regularly through recorded progress on Individual learning plans and in liaison with other specialist services. Portage Consultants can advise on applications for further support, e.g., environmental changes / school building adaptation and submit Professional Advice for Education Health and Care Plans as requested. The Portage Service aims to ensure that transition from Early Years setting to school is successful and typically a Portage Consultant may offer advisory visits to the child at school during the first term if requested.

**Transition**

Involvement of the Portage Pre-school Support Service is reviewed continually on a 3 month basis but ends when the child begins his/her school placement (although some involvement can continue during the first term if appropriate). During transition to school the Portage Consultant may advise parents on any other support agencies which may be available.