

How Can I Get Access to the Early Years Inclusion Team Portage Home Visitors?

If you have any concerns about your child's development the first thing to do is to discuss your concerns with your Health Visitor, GP, or pre-school setting. If additional support or monitoring is required referrals can be made by the appropriate professional involved.

We accept referrals from the Child Development and Therapy Centre, Health Visitors and GPs and Early Years settings.

Feedback on the Early Years Inclusion Team

Feedback from anyone who has accessed our service is appreciated and carefully considered. If you would like to provide us with some feedback or suggestions for how we can develop and improve our services, please feel free to contact us.

Contacts

For more information, the Early Years Inclusion Team can be contacted as follows:

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The Early Years Inclusion Team Portage Home Visitors

What is the Early Years Inclusion Team?

We are a team consisting of two Early Years Area Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (EYAS) and two Portage Home Visitors (PHV). The team are qualified and experienced in working with children in pre-school settings.

The Early Years Inclusion Team form part of Inclusion and Early Intervention within the Department for Children, Young People, Education and Skills. The service runs as an outreach service for both maintained schools, private pre-school settings and parents and children at home.

The EYAS are Early Years' consultants who provide professional educational support to early years practitioners in meeting the needs of all pre-statutory school children with special educational needs (SEN). Their practice is based on the principles of inclusion and integration, equal opportunities and differentiation.

The PHVs support parents and pre-school children in the family home. They also run regular 'Stay and Play' groups for parents and pre-school children who do not attend a setting. They support the child's transition from home to EYFS education settings by liaising with schools, nurseries, early year's settings and other professionals.

What does the Early Years Inclusion Team do?

We work with other professionals to raise awareness of children's additional educational needs through early identification. The team offers training and intervention to promote inclusion for all pre-school children, and to remove barriers to learning.

How might the Portage Home Visitor work with my child?

- Making regular planned home visits
- Helping to set developmental goals
- Model activities and strategies for parents to implement at home
- Provide support and strategies around behaviour
- Suggesting practical ways to aid children's learning and development
- Lending appropriate toys and equipment designed to support the programme
- Providing information particularly regarding early education issues
- Liaising with other relevant professionals
- Writing progress reports which can be shared with appropriate professionals
- Offering parent/child stay and play groups

Stay and Play Groups

- Provide stimulating and challenging activities for all ages and stages within the 0-4 age group who do not attend a pre-school setting
- Offered on a weekly basis
- Support for parental involvement in their child's learning and development through observation and collaborative discussion about their unique child
- An environment with core experiences that support positive interactions between adults and children
- Staff model sensitive and respectful adult interactions supporting children's individual learning and development based on child initiated play
- Ideas, activities and opportunities that can be replicated in the home environment
- Offer parents/carers the opportunity to meet with other parents/carers of children who have similar developmental needs
- Give children the opportunity to meet and play alongside other children
- Help children to develop the skills necessary to transition confidently into a nursery or school setting