



Early Years Inclusion Team

Home Support Service - Information For Professionals

What is Portage?

Portage is an educational support service, funded by the Government of Jersey, for pre-school children (birth to four) and their families. We support children who have needs and/or differences in at least two areas of development:

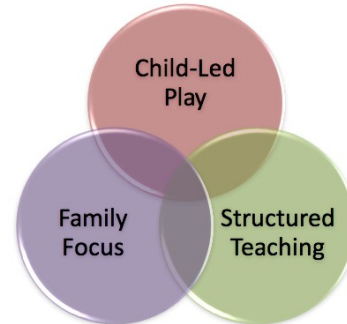
- Communication & Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Wellbeing
- Physical and Sensory

Our **Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Support Officers (EYSO)**, support children's development through fun, play-based experiences, using different strategies and resources. Portage aims to scaffold and empower parents and carers to become effective and confident in engaging and interacting with their child.

We work in partnership with parents and other professionals to ensure the child is at the centre of our practice.

Stay and play groups can provide social support and engagement opportunities that build confidence, resilience and understanding.

We facilitate information sharing during the transition process for children starting in a new setting.



Portage Model

Portage is a strengths based model starting where the child is developmentally.

Family focus - Time spent sharing and responding to the family's priorities

Child-led play - Observing play to identify the child's interests, strengths and needs

Structured teaching - Learning opportunities that respond to children's interests and build on emerging skills

Who can make a referral?

- Family Nursing and Homecare
- Child Development and Therapy Centre (SaLT/Physio/OT/FPWs)
- Children and Families Hub
- Early Years Settings
- Brighter Futures
- GPs/Paediatricians



Our Request for Involvement form and referral meeting dates can be accessed via:

[The Early Years Inclusion Team](#)

