

Caring

Portage -
Parent's Information



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot

County Borough Council / Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Making a difference Gwahaniaeth er gwell

SS/PT04/01/E

Portage

Parent's Information

August 2003

This leaflet is also available in large print, in Braille and on
tape or computer disk.

Phone 01639 873014 for copies.

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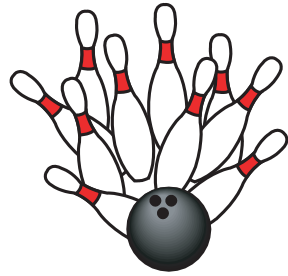
What is Portage?

Portage is a service designed to show parents how to help their children aged 0 - 3 who have some form of developmental delay catch up.

What can you expect from us?

A weekly visit at a regular agreed time.

To be informed (in advance if possible) if your visit has to be cancelled or rearranged due to illness, or other unavoidable circumstances.



To be included and to receive a written progress report after six months, then yearly thereafter.

With your permission a copy of the report will be passed on to the relevant people who work with you and your child.

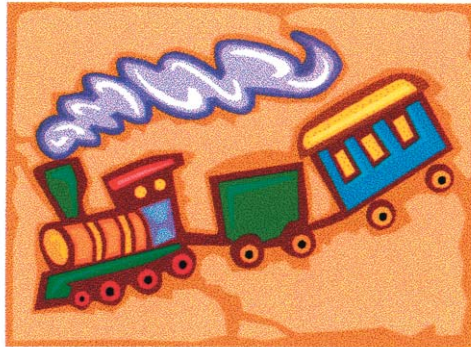


To share in the decisions made relating to Portage sessions.

To agree with you a structured programme of activities for you to carry out with your child built around your child's individual strength and needs.

Short term loans from the Portage Toy and Equipment Library.

To know that information you discuss with your Portage Worker will be treated as confidential although it may be discussed with the Team Manager during supervision.



Your Portage Worker will be happy to discuss any concerns you have about your child's development, she will sometimes suggest bringing in another professional who can give you more specialised help.

Everyone who works with children has a duty to discuss any concerns about children with their Team Manager.

In very rare circumstances, this may happen without prior discussion with parents.

What we ask of you

- To set aside a short time each day to carry out the Portage activities with your child and to keep a record of daily progress.
- To let your Portage Worker know if you need to cancel your visit for any reason.
- If your visiting time proves difficult on a regular basis, please discuss this with your Portage Worker, who will rearrange a more convenient time for you both.



- To inform us in advance if a member of your family is suffering from an infectious illness or condition, so that we can avoid passing it on to other families.
- To take care of the toys and equipment loaned to you and to ensure that they are only used under adult supervision.
- To return the toys in good condition, so that other families can use them.



The Portage check list

The checklist contains the areas of Child Development divided into small steps. It will help you and your Portage Worker to keep a record of your child's achievements. It will also act as a guide when choosing teaching activities.

Your Portage Worker will need your help to fill in the items on the checklist that your child can already do. You can then identify the areas in which your child needs the most help. This will help you both decide on a starting point.

The checklist will be an important guide to your child's progress during Portage Intervention. Obviously your child is going to achieve some areas in his / her own time. Your Portage Worker will be pleased to hear about these so that they can be credited on the checklist.

The checklist is divided into five main areas. Before these comes Infant Stimulation, a general section covering the very first steps in Development.



Checklist
(Incorporating The Wesssex Revised Language Checklist)

Child's name	Home state
Address	Your community
	Home state
	Your community
	Home state
Date of birth	Your community

NFER-NELSON

Portage Early Education Programme

The five main areas of the programme are:

1. **Socialisation:** This includes skills involved in living and getting along with people.
2. **Language:** This includes listening and attending, imitation, attention to books, response to language and language production.
3. **Self Help:** This includes skills that enable the child to care for himself e.g. feeding, dressing, bathing, toileting etc.
4. **Cognitive:** This includes early thinking and understanding skills e.g. posting and container play, colour and shape matching, drawing, counting etc.
5. **Motor:** This includes fine and gross motor skills.
 - Gross - sitting, standing, crawling, walking, running, and throwing etc.
 - Fine - grasping, pulling, stacking, fitting together, use of a pencil etc.

PORTAGE SERVICE Child's Name : Portage Worker's Name : Week of :	OUTCOME <input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Continued <input type="checkbox"/> Changed & Continued <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned														
TARGET BEHAVIOUR :															
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Weeks						Days									

Recording Activities

During the visit you and your Portage Worker will agree on an activity for you to work on with your child during the coming week. We aim to fit the activity into your family routines and play sessions and make them enjoyable for you both. In order to gain the maximum benefit from Portage, activities need to be practised regularly.

Activity Charts

These will contain instructions on how to carry out the activity and also provide record of daily progress, which will be useful when your Portage Worker visits.



Your Comments on the Service



Your comments about Portage help us make sure that we offer a high quality service. We will ask for feedback regularly.

When the service finishes we will ask you to complete a finishing questionnaire.

Of course, you should also discuss your views and feelings about the service with your Portage Worker at any time.

We hope that there will not be any difficulties that cannot be resolved through discussion with your Portage Worker, but if this should happen, please let the team manager know.

His / Her Name is:

Tel. No:

How can you Access Portage?

Anyone can make a referral to the Portage Service, which is based within the Child Care (Disability) Team at :-

**The Laurels
87 Lewis Road,
Neath,
SA11 1DJ, Tel: 01639 765400**

Your child will need to have been assessed as having some form of developmental delay and will need to be aged 0 - 3

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Portage programme. We hope that you will enjoy the visits and find them valuable.

Portage visits will finish when:

1. Your child attends school or playgroup half-time.
2. Your child's progress has improved so that there is no longer a delay.
3. You no longer want to continue the visits.
4. You are no longer able to take part regularly in the Portage activities.
5. If it is more helpful for other services to work with you and your child (e.g. Physiotherapist).

The Portage Service also offers a Step-up Service

A Step-up Service is a specific time limited piece of work, targeted at a particular area of assessed need, i.e. dressing, toileting, feeding. For children with these particular needs up to the age of 7.

Other Leaflets available:

Children with disabilities

A guide of the help available to parents and carers.

Nearly 14

Information for young people with disabilities and their parents.

Children with Sensory Impairments

The Child Disability Record

Produced by Performance and Business Management,
Social Services and Housing,
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council,
Civic Centre,
Port Talbot SA13 1PJ.



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