

Early Years SEND & Inclusion catch-up



April 2023

We hope you all had a well-deserved rest over the Easter holidays. We can't believe the summer term is here already! Hopefully it will bring some more sunshine.



Increase in DAF and EYSTAR

The rates for Disability Access Funding and EYSTAR Funding have gone up this financial year. Find out more on our [Early Years SharePoint Site](#) under the Inclusive Practice and SEND section.

Transitions

The Early Years Transitions Week starts on the **22nd of May**, but its good practice to consider transitions for children with SEND as soon as possible. Page 2 contains more information about how best to support transitions.

Portage Workshop

Northumberland Portage Service are running their workshop this term, please see their flyer on page 3.

OT Consultation Line

The Children's Occupational Therapy Service have re-opened their telephone consultation line. Please see details on page 5.

Let's talk enhanced transitions

Parents and carers found out where their child will be going to Reception on the 17th of April

What you can do to support children's transition to reception:

1. Inform your Early Years Inclusion Consultant of children's confirmed Reception places, if they will require an enhanced transition.
2. Ensure that, where children are being deferred and staying with you, parents/carers have discussed this with LA School Admissions team and have had the deferral approved. Let your Early Years Inclusion Consultant know which children have had deferrals approved.
3. Update each child's School Readiness Passport, including the 'Reception Ready' checker (last half of Summer term) and the SEND section of All About Me where appropriate.
4. Transfer the children to their new school/setting on the School Readiness Passport ASAP – set the transfer date for the last day the child is with you so that you and the school have a shared view of the child's Passport throughout the Summer term to support any discussions you might have and to ensure the child's new teacher can prepare well in advance of them starting.
5. Where relevant, organise a meeting/visits with the child's new school and plan together how best to support an effective transition for the child's specific needs (your Early Years Inclusion Consultant can support you with these meetings if helpful). If 'Team Around the Child/Family' meetings are already taking place, invite the child's new teacher along to these ASAP.





Northumberland Portage Service

are delivering a

2 and a half Day Portage Workshop
at
Blyth West Children's Centre
On

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June 2023
9:00am (Welcome/Coffee/Registration) 3:30pm finish

with a further
Half day follow up session on

Friday 7th July 2023
9.00am to 1.00pm

The course aims to develop:

- understanding of the Portage Principles and model of support
- the basic skills to deliver Portage under supervision
- the ability to apply Portage skills in one's own workplace
- knowledge of the history and local development of Portage
- knowledge of materials and resources
- confidence in working together using the Portage model
- an awareness of the National Portage Association

**Central to the course are the 'Portage Principles' and the 'Three Circle Model of Portage'.
These are emphasised throughout the modules of the course.**

- Introduction to Portage - The Portage model and its relevance in Early Years Settings
- Helping Children Learn – Using Clear Language
- Helping Children Learn – Planning for Success
- Helping Children Learn – A Small Steps Approach
- Planning, Recording and Sharing Activities
- Supporting the Development of Play
- Positive approaches to Children's Behaviour

Do you have a child with significant or complex needs in your setting. Are you applying for EYSTAR, COSA or DAF funding. If so, you may be interested in attending the Portage Workshop.

The portage workshop offers practitioners practical advice, techniques, and strategies to be able to support not only children with SEND but for all learners.

On completion of the workshop, you will be able to link the portage principles into your current practice. Not only will we look at practical activities and techniques, but we will also look at writing specific targets using 'clear language.' This will give early years practitioners the skills to break down long term outcomes into specific short-term outcomes, to set appropriate SMART targets for SEND learners.

We hope you take advantage of the 2 and a half-day workshop to develop links with the Portage Team to support all our learners.

Participants must complete both days and half day sessions. Please do not send another member of staff if you cannot attend.



On completion of the course, you will receive certification as having been trained in Portage principles.

The total cost of the course is: £50.00 for Northumberland PVI Providers and £150.00 for Northumberland Schools.

If you would like to book a place on the course, please complete the Application Form, at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/MsgDULrPd4>.

Please note, places are limited so may be restricted to one person per setting. For further information, please contact Sarah Bott, Portage Administrator:
Sarah.Bott01@northumberland.gov.uk Telephone: 07966 774425.

Please apply for your place on the course by 15th May 2023.

Confirmation of place will be forwarded on receipt of payment where applicable.

TELEPHONE CONSULTATION LINE

NORTHUMBERLAND

CHILDREN'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE

0-18 Service available for use by:

GPs, Children's Services, Health Visitors, Portage, SENCo's, Community Paediatricians, Public Health School Nurses, Speech & Language Therapists, Physiotherapists.

Advice and guidance on:

- Clarification of the service eligibility criteria
- Practical advice on managing children and young people with physical and/or sensory processing difficulties, impacting on their daily living skills

To book a 20 minute consultation with our Occupational Therapist please email the Northumberland team below.

Appointment slots will be available Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons.

Please state your preferred day and provide a contact telephone number when emailing the service. We will then email an appointment slot to contact you by telephone:

paediatricotadvice1d@nhct.nhs.uk

Dates to remember...

Date	Remember...
April 2023	Transfers for new starters on the Passport Remember to share any children who have moved from your setting with their new provider, and accept any new transfers to your setting. Find out how to do this here .
Friday 21st July 2023	Summer term payment run If you have recently been sent an EYSTAR notification letter, you will be paid the funding on this date.
Week Beginning 22nd of May	Transitions Week Look out for important information about transitions, especially children transitioning to Reception in September.
Wednesday 25th May 2023	Final panel date for EYSTAR applications for children moving to Reception Unless the child does stretched entitlement over the summer holidays.

If you'd like to receive our SEND and Inclusion catch-up directly to your inbox, please email one of the Inclusion Consultants and we'll add you to our mailing list.

Contact details

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