



# PLAYWISE PORTAGE SERVICE

## WHAT IS PLAYWISE PORTAGE?

PlayWise Portage is a preschool home visiting education service for children with special needs. We offer a structured and flexible approach to learning, ensuring that during the child's early years, parents/carers who are the key figures in their child's care and development are supported in becoming his/her best teacher.

## WHAT SUPPORT DO WE OFFER?

Following the initial home visit one of the following options will be offered based on your child's current situation.

- **Short Term:** 3 home visits
- **Core PlayWise Portage:** Fortnightly home visits until the child's 3rd birthday.
- **Portage Liaison:** (for children attending nursery, preschool or childminder for 10 hours plus per week) - Up to 4 home visits or nursery observations offered.
- **Intensive PlayWise Portage:** Weekly home visits, reviewed regularly.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

- PlayWise Portage works directly with children aged birth to 3 years
- In partnership with parents/carers the PlayWise worker will assess the needs of the child, build upon the abilities the child has already acquired and teach the skills the child has yet to master
- PlayWise Portage workers will show you how to make learning enjoyable and successful and also offer opportunities for you to discuss your child's development
- Assist parents/carers to identify and effectively meet the needs of their child, so enabling the child to reach their full potential
- Provide professional advice and support to parents/carers in all aspects of their child's early development
- Offer a link for parents/carers and their children with the transition from home to pre-school
- We offer a range of general and specialist groups.

## WHERE DO WE START?

Following the referral, the PlayWise Portage Manager will visit you to meet the family and explain in detail what is involved. This will give you the opportunity to decide where or not you wish to receive the service.

### PLAYWISE PORTAGE CRITERIA

PlayWise Portage intervention is available if your child has two or more areas of developmental difficulties and are demonstrating a minimum of a six month delay impacting on their learning.

### PORTAGE REFERRAL

Parents/carers can refer themselves directly to the PlayWise service by phone or email. Your own GP, Speech Therapist, Paediatrician, Health Visitor, Physiotherapist or any other professional involved can make referral by completing a Portage Referral Form.