

Welcome

Updates and news for Early Years setting SENDCOs, PSED and SLC Leads in Torbay Early Years settings

Introducing Torbay's 3rd new Portage Home Visitor

My One - Page Profile



Linda Hayden

I have worked in Early Years for over 18 years, initially as a Nanny in a home environment and more recently as a Preschool Play Leader. My broad range of experiences and in-depth knowledge gained through my degree in Childhood and Youth and more recently my Early Years Initial Teacher Training and Post Graduate Diploma in Early Years have all lead to my current position as a Portage Home Visitor.

What People Appreciate About Me

Approachability and acceptance - we are all different and all face our own challenges and triumphs. Respecting others is something I believe others appreciate about me.

Sense of Humour – When you work with children you need to be able to smile and laugh with others sometimes.

Flexibility – There is no one way. Being able to adapt and respond to situations and circumstances.

What is important to Me

My family are important to me. I have four children, life can be a little chaotic, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Respect is fundamentally important in my life. Respect of each other, the people we work with, the families and children we support. Respect for the environments in which we live and work. Respect for the job that I do.



Getting support in settings

If you have concerns about a child's progress and would like some support please email

Judith.thomas@torbay.gov.uk
EYAT for SEND

Katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk
EYAT

Verity.hyde@torbay.gov.uk
EY Language Consultant

Following your contact by email, support can be arranged.

Typically, the following steps of support take place:

1. Telephone or Zoom interaction to plan support together
2. Setting SENDCO puts into action the agreed plan
3. If progress is persistently concerning a visit can be arranged

A big thank you from Torbay Educational Psychology Service

The Torbay Educational Psychology Service would particularly like to thank all early years settings and childminders for the timely referrals of very young children with SEND. It has been a challenging academic year and despite this, the professionalism experienced from Early Years practitioners has been noted.

We have seen some good evidence of the Graduated Approach cycle of support, which is essential when considering a child's level of need and what interventions are effective for that child.



It has been particularly appreciated how managers and SENCOs have organised very effective virtual assessments, observations and consultations with the Educational Psychologists, which has meant that children's SEND needs have continued to be assessed during lockdowns.

As a result, many young children with SEND, will be starting their schools in September with the appropriate level of support including Education, Health and Care Plans and SEN School Support.

As a reminder, in order to access an Educational Psychologist, please, in the first instance, liaise with the child's Portage Home Visitor, if they have one, or with the Early Years Advisory Teacher for SEND. Next academic year, we will continue to have monthly meetings with these colleagues in order to achieve timely allocations of Educational Psychology referrals.

Thank you.

Training Opportunities this summer

In the Picture - through the National Portage Association – free through the Open University

[In-the-Picture, the free online training course for Portage Home Visitors and early childhood practitioners, is now available | National Portage Association](#)

In-the-Picture is an innovative approach which helps those supporting very young children with learning difficulties explore what everyday experiences and activities are like from the child's perspective. The course was developed for the NPA by Jonathan Rix and John Parry from the Open University and covers everything you need in order to use In-the-Picture in a way that suits your working practices

Nasen

Meeting the Needs of Every Child

This DfE funded online course is FREE to access and will provide Early Years Practitioners with a thorough understanding of inclusive practice for SEND in Early Years settings. The 90 minute webcast will cover the following topics:

Responsibilities of a PVI setting towards children with SEND

The role of the SENCO and the key person

What effective inclusive practice looks like in a PVI setting

How to use nasen's free face-to-face training materials

29th July 1pm-3pm <https://nasen.org.uk/events/meeting-needs-every-child-4>

12th August 6pm-8pm
<https://nasen.org.uk/events/meeting-needs-every-child-5>

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

[Mind Your Words – Free e-learning course | RCSLT](#)

The five core modules explain what speech, language and communication needs are, what social, emotional and mental health needs are, and how to recognise them, as well as how they are interrelated and some general strategies you can put in place.