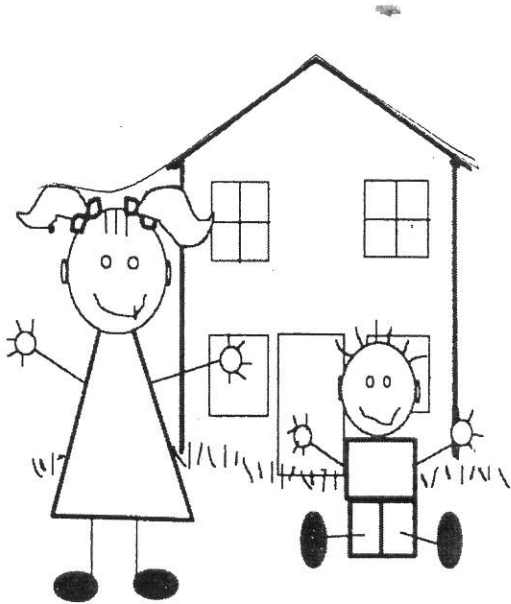


## LEARNING AT HOME

## PORTAGE IN LINCOLNSHIRE



## PORTAGE

The home-teaching scheme  
for children with additional  
needs

Parents are the most important teachers of their children. From parents a child learns to walk, talk, to behave socially with others and to develop a whole range of other skills.

Mostly children progress through their early years with little difficulty. However, some children may learn at a slower rate or have specific difficulties and the parents may become unsure and concerned. The Portage Teams aim to help families by working with them in the home, helping them to meet the needs of their child.

The Portage Home Visitor works with parents in their home because young children initially learn best in the security of their own home with the people who know them. In this way the best teaching programmes can be developed for every child.

The name Portage comes from the town of Wisconsin, USA where the home teaching scheme was developed in the 1970's.

There are eight Portage Teams in Lincolnshire, each comprising of a Portage Team Coordinator and Portage Home Visitors. The Portage Home Visitors may come from different professional backgrounds such as Health, Social Services or Education. They and the Portage Coordinator are all trained to National Portage Association standards. The Lincolnshire Portage Teams are affiliated to the National Portage Association. Portage Workers regularly update and extend their training.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Portage is a home visiting educational service for pre-school children with additional needs. These may be learning difficulties, developmental delay or physical difficulties.

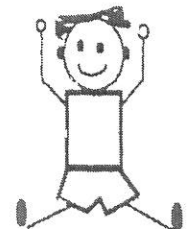
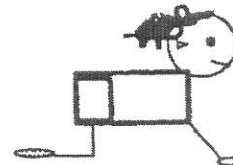
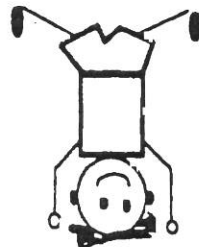
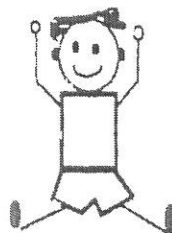
## WHAT IS PORTAGE?

Many parents find that helping their child to succeed in a small way is stimulating and enjoyable. The parents and Portage Worker find many ways to encourage a child's development, making it fun for both child and parents.

## REFERRAL TO PORTAGE?

Children can be referred from birth by parents/carers or any agency involved with the child such as Health Visitors, GP's, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Paediatricians, Educational Psychologists, Playgroups etc.

Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL



## HOW DOES IT WORK

The Portage Worker visits the family at home weekly or fortnightly and plans activities with the parent or carer. Every activity is written down as is every success.

Each child's progress is reviewed at least termly and the need for ongoing Portage is discussed.

## WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED?

The Portage Home Visitor regularly meets with other professionals working with pre-school children to share ideas and review progress. These people may include Physiotherapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and the Educational Psychologists. General discussions take place but direct referrals to these services only occur with parental permission.

## What parents think about Portage

*"It has helped me because I can see the improvements and it has given me confidence in my ability to help him."*

*"It is done at home within the best environment for one-to-one teaching. Everyone is relaxed which makes things easier."*

*"It has taught me to take things gradually, Before Portage, I expected to see an immediate response to certain things. Now, I accept the little things which all add up to succeeding in one big thing later."*

*"I look forward very much to my weekly visit. You don't feel isolated and you know that if you have anything you're worried about, you can discuss it."*



National **Portage** Association  
Partners with Parents and Children

For further information about the team in your area please contact:

<p><b>The Lincoln &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>Queens Park School Queens Park Lincoln LN5 8EW</p> <p>Tel: 01522 878112 Fax: 01522 878113</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Lyn Joyner Stebbings Mobile: 07710-796695</p>	<p><b>The Grantham &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>The Sandon School Sandon Close Grantham NG31 9AX</p> <p>Tel: 01476 564994 Fax: 01476 592195</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Jayne Rose Mobile: 07725-595375</p>
<p><b>The Louth &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>St Bernard's School Wood Lane Louth LN11 8RS</p> <p>Tel: 01507 603776 Fax: 01507 603914</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Ann Ordish Mobile: 07900-604923</p>	<p><b>The Spalding &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>The Garth School Pinchbeck Road Spalding PE11 1QF</p> <p>Tel: 01775 725566 Fax: 01775 768829</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Karen Kitney</p>
<p><b>The Spilsby &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>The Eresby School Eresby Avenue Spilsby PE23 5HU</p> <p>Tel: 01790 752441 Fax: 01790 754223</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Mandy Sylvester</p>	<p><b>The West Lindsey &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>Warren Wood Community School Middlefield Lane Gainsborough DN21 1PU</p> <p>Tel: 01427 615498 Fax: 01427 615498</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Rosie Veail</p>
<p><b>The Boston &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>The John Fielding School Ashlawn Drive Boston PE21 9PX</p> <p>Tel: 01205 363395 Fax: 01205 357696</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Sue Morrison</p>	<p><b>The Bourne &amp; District Portage Service</b></p> <p>The Willoughby School South Road Bourne PE10 9JE</p> <p>Tel: 01778 425203 Fax: 01778 425284</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Marie Kershaw</p>

