

Professionals and their roles:

It is important that we use the skills and knowledge of all professionals and to build on each other's strengths. We do this to ensure that your child is getting a well-rounded and inclusive approach and can gain the best Early Years education they can.

Over the next few pages, we have tried to explain the roles of some of the professionals and services that we refer to for further support, advice and guidance.

These are:

- Your child's health visitor
- Portage
- The Children and Family Well Being Service
- Specialist Teacher
- Community Paediatrician
- Child Development Centre
- Early Help and the TAF process
- Speech and Language therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Educational Psychologist

Health Visitor (Healthy Family Practitioners) NHS

Before your child was born, they would have been assigned a health visitor; this is normally written on the front of your child's red book with their contact details. This is your first port of call for any non urgent issues relating to your child's health and well-being.

Your health visitor will arrange developmental checks up until your child is aged 5. However, if you have any concerns, you can contact them anytime. Health visitors have a vast range of knowledge and are great to share your concerns with, signposting you to other services if needed.

When your child reaches the age of 2 years, they will have a '2 year development check', often completed around 30 months or 2 ½ years; it is in two parts. The health visitor carries out part one, and your child's educational setting carries out the second part. This is when any concerns regarding reaching milestones or any queries you may have about your child's development can be discussed.

It is important that when your child has been visited by the health visitor and had a developmental check carried out, you let the Nursery know if any concerns are identified; then, we can work with you and your child and put in place any further support necessary for your child.

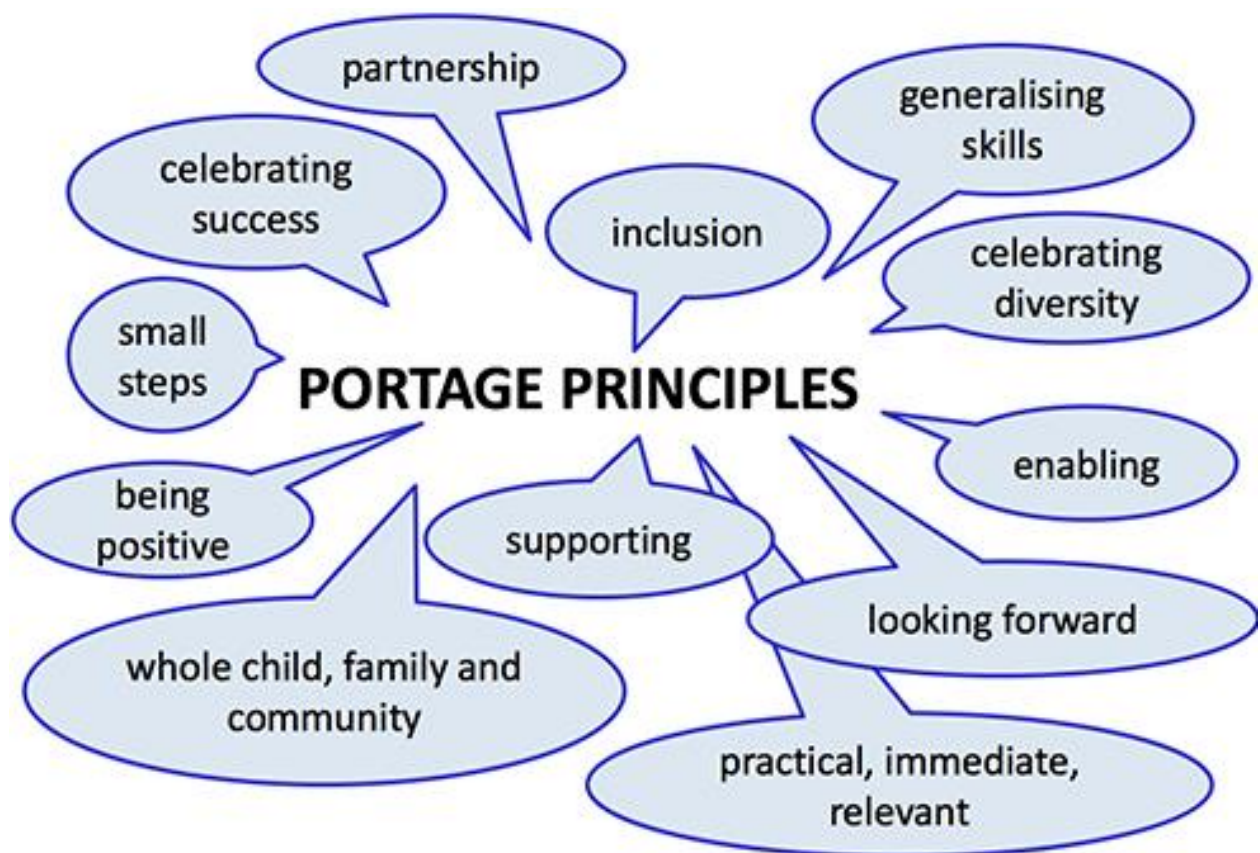
Portage Service (Lancashire County Council)

Portage is an educational home-visiting service for pre-school children who have significant special educational needs and disabilities.

Portage Home Visitors support parents and carers in their home to develop their child's play and learning and promote positive outcomes. Parents and carers know their children best, and it is easier for the child to learn in familiar, comfortable surroundings. The idea is to have fun together.

Many parents have found Portage very helpful because of its supportive and positive approach and its impact on their child's development.

Portage has its own set of principles.



Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) Lancashire County Council

This service supports families of children and young people from 0-19 years old and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities up to 25.

Some of this will be in groups, and some of this will be with individuals.

Some of the services are available to all children or families and others are for those most need support.

They offer different services across a range of locations to meet the needs of the local community, including:

- Support for individual children, young people or their families
- Health services – ranging from health visitors to breastfeeding
- Parenting advice for mums, dads and carers
- Activities and groups where your baby, toddler or child can play and learn
- A place to pick up Healthy Start vitamins and tablets
- Advice to help you to support your child's learning from birth
- A great place to make new friends
- Connecting with the local community
- Access to specialist support for families with children with disabilities/additional needs
- Groups for expectant mums and dads
- Advice and guidance on how to keep you and your child healthy
- Sensory rooms
- Information about local childcare

For families that need extra help and support, your key person from the CFWS may meet with you individually to assess your needs. This will help them work with you to get the extra support you need.

A range of professionals may collaborate with the CFWS, such as workers from Children's Social Care, Police, housing services, the local district council, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, and the Adult Wellbeing Service.

To find out what groups and support are available in our area, you can ring the following numbers:

Nelson Family Hub and The Zone (Leeds Road) 01282 470877

Whitefield Family Centre (Maurice Street) 01282 470277

Specialist Teaching Service (Lancashire County Council)

This service is for children 3 years and older and, for most children, is a continuation of Portage. However, if children's needs are identified early and significant enough, they might access this service from an earlier age.

With your permission, the SENCOs would refer to the Specialist Teaching Service for involvement to provide ongoing information, advice, and interventions to support young children with identified SEND and the practitioners who work with them.

The specialist teacher will then arrange termly visits to the Nursery to observe your child. Based on this observation, they will write a report outlining possible next steps to support your child's learning and development.

They also suggest further services that we could refer your child to, to support your child and their next steps.

There are also specialist teachers for children who have hearing impairment or are visually impaired

Community Paediatrician: (NHS)

Community paediatricians are developmental paediatricians. They have a clinic where they see children and young people in an outpatient capacity. They do not manage medical difficulties where there are no developmental concerns.

A community paediatrician will support your child and the family through the process of supporting your child and gaining a diagnosis if this is deemed needed.

They work with children who have the following:

- Physical disabilities.
- Children with delayed milestones (speech, motor, social communication, play skills)
- Diagnosis of developmental disorder.
- Significant hearing or visual impairments.
- Social communication difficulties.
- Developmental and learning assessment.
- Known learning difficulties or genetic conditions.

If you feel your child needs this service,, you can go to your child's GP, who can refer you, or you can speak to us, and we can also do this for you.

The community Paediatrician will signpost you to the services within the Child Development Centre (CDC).

If you think your child is showing traits of Autism, talk to your child's class teacher or the SENCo, and we can refer to the ASD pathway.

Child Development Centre (NHS)

The Child Development Centre is located within the Rainbow Centre at Burnley General Teaching Hospital. The child development centre provides a multi-disciplinary approach to children aged 0-5 years, focusing on their development.

Paediatricians -Carry out specialised assessment and diagnosis and provide medical advice.

Specialist Health Visitors Provide support, counselling and advice throughout your child's attendance.

Physiotherapists Assess movement and mobility and provide advice and exercise to enhance early years developmental practitioners.

They run groups and offer an environment that allows children to develop and learn through skilled individual therapy sessions and group activities.

The team of qualified and experienced staff allow children to access a wide range of activities within their bright, stimulating therapy rooms to enhance development through play. Continuous assessments will ensure individual needs are being met and achievable objectives are made.

Parent Involvement

Caregivers' involvement is considered to be fundamental to child development. They are expected to attend the unit with their child for all therapy sessions and groups. Our aim is to empower the caregiver and enable them to help their child reach their full potential.

They work closely with services such as Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy; Portage, Dieticians, Paediatric Learning Disability Service, Community Children's Nurses.

Other services include the Vision clinic, Sleep clinic, Parent Forum.

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) NHS

Speech and Language therapists support children with communication, eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties. They work with children who, for physical or psychological reasons, have problems speaking and communicating. Speech therapy provides strategies to support children in using their voice properly and using the muscles to make the right sounds. They help children understand language and express themselves.

They work in partnership with children and their families, other professions, and agencies to reduce the impact of these often hidden and isolating difficulties on people's well-being and ability to participate in daily life.

Through cooperative work with children and those around them, the service will provide assessment, diagnosis, therapy, practical advice, and equipment to support children in developing and achieving academically, socially, and emotionally to reach their full potential. To facilitate a seamless service for clients, SALT works as a partner with the Nursery.

The overall care pathway for speech and language therapy involves:

- Request for Involvement
- Assessment
- Discussion of short and long-term goals with parties involved, where difficulties are identified
- Episodes of speech and language therapy intervention with ongoing monitoring of progress toward goals
- Reassessment at key times
- Discharge or transition to self-management or other forms of care.

Children are supported through a specific, evidence-based care pathway according to the outcome of their assessment. Speech and language therapy intervention may include any of the following direct and indirect interventions:

- Advice (face to face, telephone or written) - both preventative or therapeutic
- Direct intervention with the individual - either one to one or in a group
- Training others to carry out interventions with the individuals
- Training others to improve the communication or feeding environment
- Preparation of programmes to be undertaken by appropriately trained people
- Referral after discharge for long-term support, for example, from the voluntary sector.

The aims of SALTs advice or interventions:

- Enable children to achieve and maintain their communication potential (and eat and drink safely, where commissioned to do so)
- Maximise the child's functional communication ability within their environment where further development or rehabilitation is not possible
- Empower children, parents and carers by enabling them to understand the communication or eating and swallowing difficulty and how they can manage this
- Promote wider awareness and understanding of communication, eating and swallowing difficulties and teaching others how to prevent and support these.

Physiotherapy (Physio) NHS

Physiotherapy aims to help children develop and maintain their mobility skills, range of joint movement, muscle strength, and motor skills. It also gives advice on activities to improve children's access to the curriculum.

Your child will be referred to Physio if they have had a medical injury, such as a soft tissue injury. However, as a school, we would refer children to this service if they are showing physical and learning disabilities and displaying developmental delays in their milestones. These may include things such as head control, sitting balance, crawling, and walking skills.

Physiotherapy departments may issue specialist equipment, such as standing frames, to aid your child's learning and development. If your child needs any equipment, then nursery staff will be trained to safely put your child in and take them out of it. Your child's physiotherapist will visit the nursery on a regular basis to review the equipment and adjust it when needed.

Occupational Therapy (OT) NHS

Occupational therapy (OT) is a branch of health care that helps people of all ages with sensory, cognitive or physical barriers. OT services are there to help children regain their independence in all areas of their lives. They try to support this through everyday activities, exercises and other therapies.

OT supports children in developing their fine motor skills so they can grasp and release toys, ensuring the building blocks are in place for handwriting. They focus on their hand-eye coordination and master independent life skills such as bathing, dressing, and self-feeding.

We would refer to OT if we needed any specialist equipment to help build your child's independence.

These include:

- Wheelchairs
- Splints
- Bathing equipment
- Dressing devices
- Communication aids.

Educational Psychologist Assessment (EP) Lancashire County Council

The Educational Psychology service is a team of psychologists with specialist training in child development and how children learn. The role of the educational psychologist is to support schools and families if children are experiencing barriers to their learning.

The SENCO will send an EP request, which you, as the parent/guardian of the child, must sign.

The EP assessment is usually as part of providing psychological advice as part of education, health and care needs assessments and associated statutory processes. This may include observation, talking to the child to gather their views and/or one-to-one activities and meeting you as a parents and carers.

The EP will write a report that provides advice and strategies to help us support your child and will be used by the authority when writing the child's EHCP.

Unfortunately, the current waiting list for EP consultation is between 3-8 months.