

Portage Approved Early Years Settings

Portsmouth Portage promotes the National Portage Association Stamp of Approval Scheme

The National Portage Association set up the Stamp of Approval Scheme with the DFE endorsement to provide a quality standard award for early year’s settings who have demonstrated they deliver inclusive early years education based upon Portage Principles (see below). Childminders are also eligible to apply. At least two of the setting practitioners (or the childminder) must have successfully completed Portage Training delivered by a trainer accredited with the National Portage Association. In Portsmouth, assessment and support is given by the lead trainer and Portage Team leader, Sharon Ensor.

Portage Principles are:

**Partnership** with parents and with other agencies

**Inclusion** e.g. strategies and approaches such as use of visuals, accessibility to all activities etc. (including parents with needs)

**Being Positive** - strategies put in place to overcome difficulties, positive child first language, positive about learning, play and behaviour

**Small Steps** - small teaching steps and strategies are used such as grading materials, forward and backward chaining

**Enabling** - Parents participate in their child’s learning, enabling environment to enable access

**Celebrating Success** - how the setting acknowledges and celebrates the smallest achievements

**Looking Forward** - the SENCo/other staff have knowledge of referral processes, SEND reforms and the setting is pro-active and sensitive in their discussion with parents where additional support/advice is needed

**Generalising** - children have the opportunity to practise new skills with a range of toys/equipment, activities, people and where possible different environments.

**Practical, Immediate, Relevant** e.g. strategies are used to establish a child’s baseline skills and emerging skills, engaging children in activities at their own level. Children’s support plans include targets that reflect parents’ priorities for their child’s development.

**Supporting** - attendance at TAC Meetings, support/advice to prepare parents for meetings e.g. TAC Meetings, medical appointments etc. Providing transition support.

**Celebrating Diversity** - traditions and customs of different cultures celebrated in the setting

**Whole Child, Family and Community** e.g. demonstrating how to access and promote the Local Offer and other support networks



Congratulations to Parade Community Preschool as they receive the Portage Stamp of Approval.

"We are very proud at The Parade Community Preschool to be awarded the Portage Stamp of Approval. This award confirms our long standing relationship with our superb local Portage Team.

For us here at the setting we believe in an ethos of Inclusion and ensuring that everyone 'belongs'; this includes our children and their parents.

At the Parade we ensure that we create a community in which everyone feels comfortable, and that all our children 'belong' and can contribute equally to the setting". - Cathy Robinson, Parade Manager.