

Introduction to Portage

Supporting
children and families

**Barking &
Dagenham**

one borough; one community; no one left behind



What is Portage?

Portage is a home visiting education service for pre-school children with additional support needs and their families.

We work with pre school children aged 0 – 5 yrs living in Barking and Dagenham.

The team are based at Alibon Children Centre and are an early intervention service within the Children and Young People with Disability (CYPD) Service.

Who can receive Portage?



- Children aged 0 – 5 years living in Barking & Dagenham, who have:
- A diagnosed disability which is/may cause significant and/or long-lasting delay in their development;
- Babies born very prematurely – before 32 weeks and/or had a long stay in hospital which is/may cause significant and/or long-lasting delay in their development;
- Significant and long-lasting delays in 2 or more areas of development which hasn't improved with support from universal and targeted support (e.g. health visiting service, Community Hubs, attending nursery, Early Help)

Who can refer a child to Portage?



A child can be referred by:

- Health Visitor or Community Nursery Nurse
- Paediatrician
- Speech and Language therapist
- Nursery
- Early Help worker or Social Worker
- Family

How can I refer a child to Portage?

- Discuss with parents and gain their consent to make the referral.
- Complete the online referral form: [Portage Referral Form | One Borough Voice \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](https://lbbd.gov.uk/portage-referral-form)
- If you are also referring the child to specialist health services e.g. Speech and Language, physiotherapy and have completed a Single Point of Access (SPA) form, please attach this to the referral.
- Ensure you provide information about the child's level of development and what support the family have had e.g. attending universal groups, support from community nursery nurse with activities.

What support does Portage provide?

Targeted groups

Alibon Children Centre or Thames Community Hub:

- Welcome to Portage
- Messy Play
- Little Explorers
- Way2Play
- Sing-a-long
- Baby Massage

Home learning sessions

A Portage Practitioner is allocated for a block of home learning sessions to teach the family evidence-based interventions to support their child's development.

Transition to nursery

Portage and nursery work together to support the child to start nursery. Reports are shared and visits are carried out to observe the child in the nursery and ensure their needs are being met.

Portage can also help with

Discretionary
2 year
nursery
funding
(at the end of Portage
involvement)

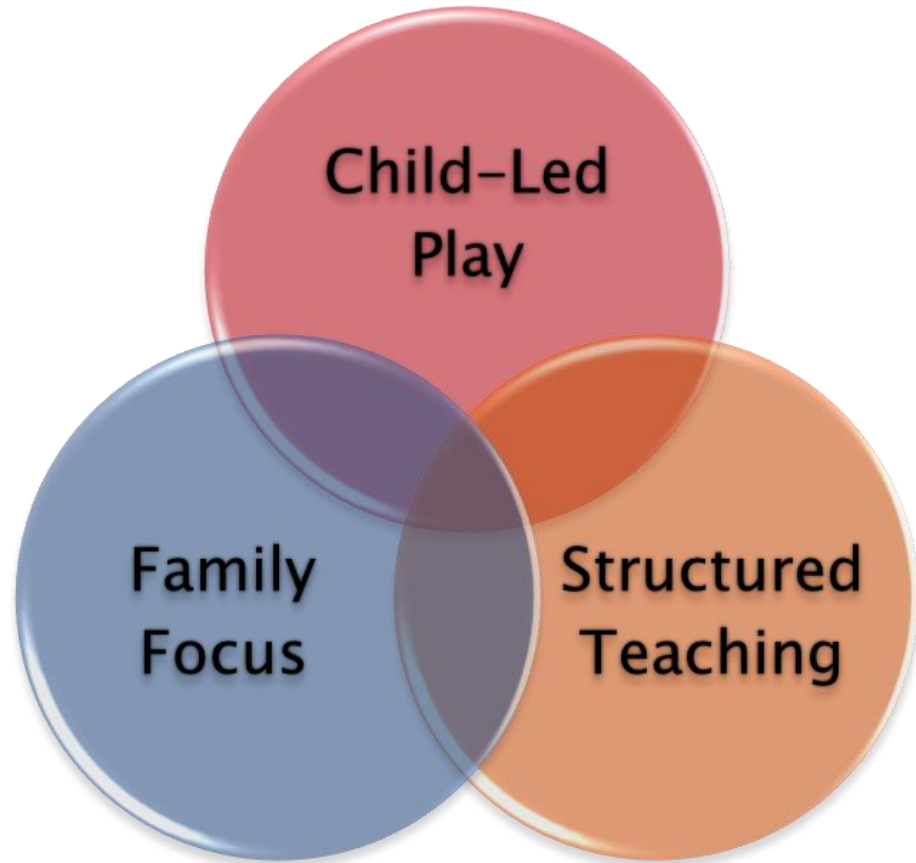
Applying for
DLA, charity
funding, short
breaks

Making
referrals to
other
agencies

NARP/EHC
requests

Liaise with
other
professionals

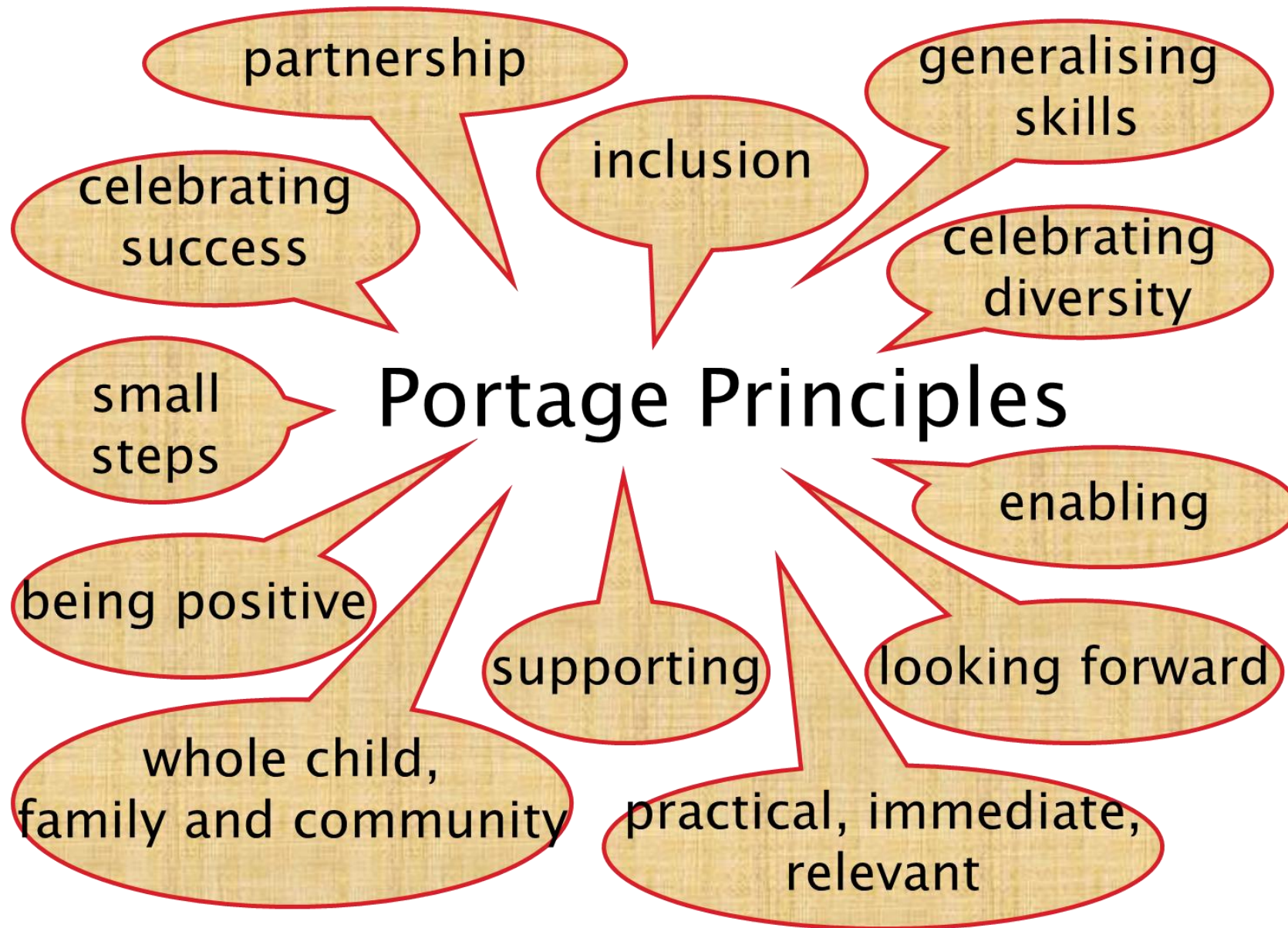
The Portage model



The Portage model consists of three key elements that show the way we support child.

one borough; one community; no one left behind

**Barking &
Dagenham**



More about Portage

You can find out more about the Portage service in Barking and Dagenham on our website

www.lbbd.gov.uk/Portage

The National Portage Association also has a website

www.portage.org.uk



one borough; one community; no one left behind

**Barking &
Dagenham**

Who are the Portage team?



Here are some of the Portage home visitors



one borough; one community; no one left behind

**Barking &
Dagenham**

Contacting the Portage team

- Contact the child's allocated Portage Home Visitor on their mobile number or individual email address
- Contact the Portage team by email PortageOffice@lbbd.gov.uk or by telephone 020 8724 8550

