

Contact Us

Parents and practitioners using our service have a right to expect:

- a service provided by professionals who have training in communication skills and equality
- a service that takes account of cultural background and that aims to provide information and support in a first language
- to be treated with respect
- an approach and language that values the(ir) child
- an approach within the social model of disability
- to have concerns responded to and respected
- discussions about the child to be shared sensitively and honestly
- time to reflect, ask questions and check understanding of the information given
- to understand and have clear information about what will happen next e.g. who will make contact, or when another visit will take place, which ideas will be tried etc
- to receive written details which reflects the above statements
- an opportunity to comment on the quality of service provided
- confidentiality

Your agreement must always be obtained before the FIRST Visiting Team becomes involved with your child.

Your verbal agreement must have been given before the Inclusion Team will take any details about your child from the pre-school/nursery. Once this is received and the pre-school/nursery makes the referral, you will be sent a consent letter to sign.

Parents are welcome to come in and meet the FIRST Team Visitor, usually towards the end of the visit.

You know your child better than anyone and we want you to have the chance to tell us about him/her.

The Paperwork

Some aims or suggestions will be agreed and written down, to help your child in pre-school/nursery. A copy of the paperwork, which you are welcome to see at any time, will be kept at the pre-school/nursery in a red folder and treated as confidential.

If you have any questions regarding the FIRST Visiting Team please contact:

By post Early Childhood Service
St. James Campus
St. James Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7HA

Telephone 01243 520828



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FIRST Visiting Team

Information for Parents and Carers

Early Childhood Service



What is FIRST?

Inclusion is a process of identifying, understanding and breaking down the barriers to participation and belonging. (Early Childhood Forum)

All early years and childcare practitioners must plan to meet each child's individual needs. All children are part of their local community and need to be provided with inclusive early education and/or childcare experiences.

FIRST stands for:

F - Facilitating

I - Inclusion (through)

R - Reflection

S - Support and

T - Training

FIRST is run by the Early Childhood Service and aims to help early years and childcare practitioners provide the best possible experience for all children in their settings.

Your Child

As you know your child's pre-school/nursery has asked for a visit from the FIRST visiting team to help staff with ideas to ensure your child gets the most out of being there. The team is made up of:

- an Inclusion Adviser
- a Speech and Language Therapist
- a Portage Co-ordinator

The initial visit will be made by only the Inclusion Adviser, unless they think that it is more appropriate for one of the other team members to visit.

What is an Inclusion Adviser?

- A qualified teacher in early years
- Someone whose role is to train and advise early years and childcare practitioners

What will they do?

- Come to your child's pre-school/nursery
- Observe your child as s/he plays and interacts with the other children and staff
- Get together with you and the staff to discuss observations
- Decide, with all of you, some ideas for the pre-school/nursery staff to put into place
- Arrange a follow up visit to see if the ideas have worked.

Sometimes the Inclusion Adviser may decide that the special knowledge of another professional is needed and may ask for the help of a Speech and Language Therapist or a Portage Co-ordinator.

Speech and Language Therapist

Why?

It may be that your child

- needs help joining in
- needs help interacting with other children
- would benefit from support in communicating.

Is it like therapy at the clinic?

No, it's not the same. Although the therapist will spend time with your child or observe them at pre-school/nursery, they are there mainly to help the staff with ideas or changes that will help your child and the pre-school as a whole.

Maybe your child already attends a clinic or is waiting for an appointment. The therapists will make contact with each other and the clinic therapist will receive a written summary of any visits that are made.

Portage

You may already have a Portage Home Visitor. Portage works alongside parents offering practical help and ideas to encourage a child's emerging skills. Portage Co-ordinators are qualified teachers who co-ordinate the Portage Home Visiting Service.

Why?

As part of the FIRST Visiting Team the Portage Co-ordinator may visit your child's pre-school/nursery to

- offer the staff ideas to help your child get the most from being there
- suggest play activities to help your child's development and wellbeing.