

SEND Weekly Newsletter 4 July 2018



Issue 4

Your Guide to the Portage Service



The aim of Portage is to develop pre-school children's skills through play based activities. It also aims to help pre-school children with additional needs and their families to participate and be included in their local community and to play a part in minimising the barriers often faced by young children with additional needs and their families. We also offer a specialist package ([PERSCEY](#)) for children with social communication needs.

Who is responsible for SEND provision in a school/setting?

The simple answer is **everyone** involved in teaching and learning has a responsibility for SEND so anyone should be able to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can. Your first point of contact is your child's class teacher however if more specialist advice is needed they will refer to the school SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator).

PORTAGE MOVING INTO SCHOOL is a new intervention which is designed to support children during their transition into primary school. It is aimed at children who have already received Portage within their home and consists of a 5 week intervention programme delivered in the school setting in the Autumn Term of school entry.

Portage Moving into School will be delivered by a skilled Portage Home Visitor who has worked extensively with the child in their home setting and therefore has an excellent knowledge of the child. Alongside this, they will bring expert knowledge of Portage Principles and how these can be used to support the child's development and inclusion in their new setting.

For more information please visit the [SSE website](#).



CAOT FEST 2018 - all you need to know

Brought to you by SCC's Children's Autism Outreach Team (CAOT), this camping festival is for families who have a **child or young person with autism**. The fun filled four days (three nights) at Thorney Lakes, near Langport starts on 31 July and ends 3 August 2018 and includes 'CAOT's got Talent', circus skills, willow sculpture, Bugs Fest and much more! It's £20 per night for 2 people, £3 per extra person, £2 per electric per night. Children and young people with autism are FREE. For more information please call Barbara on 07584 175261 or to book call Thorney Lakes direct on 01458 250811.



How's your smile?

The Oral Health Promotion team is delivering a tooth brushing scheme for special schools in Somerset. Children will receive a supervised session during the school day to supplement brushing at home. Regular brushing improves oral health and helps to reduce the level of dental disease.

If you/your child aren't registered with a dentist then contact the Somerset dental advice line: 0300 123 7691.

If you offer support or care for children, young people or adults there is some **FREE e-learning** in oral health improvement [here](#).

Think Family Strategy

The local area has now launched the [Think Family Strategy](#).

What is Think Family?

In the past where families have had multiple complex needs, agencies have acted alone instead of working together with the whole family. **Think Family** secures better outcomes for children, young people and their families by co-ordinating the support they receive.

The strategy aims to get agencies working together, not just supporting the child concerned but looking at supporting the whole household and wider community. This means everyone gets the help they need at the right time and avoiding problems escalating and requiring more intensive, specialist support.

If you'd like to find out more, [click here](#) to view a short video.

