



Welcome to the Early Years SEND Service

We support children aged 0 to 4 years,
living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
who require special educational needs
and disabilities (SEND) services.

bpcouncil.gov.uk/localoffer



Each service has its own particular criteria for requesting support.

To access this **an online form** must be completed.

Once submitted, a weekly multi-agency panel will discuss each request with representatives from each service, the health visiting team and family hubs present.



Portage home visiting

Portage is a specialist home visiting service, mainly for children under 3 years old with complex needs. The service works closely with parents and other professionals focusing on what a child can do, enabling parents to build on their child's strengths and skills.

The team helps break down learning activities into small achievable steps to show how learning through play is all about having fun and celebrating success.

Eligibility criteria:

- the child should live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole, be aged under 3 years
- the child must have significant delays across three areas of development equivalent to 50% of their age, or have a recognised syndrome that is likely to have a significant impact on learning and development
- the child must be accessing less than ten hours childcare with an early years provider.



Area SENCO service

An Area SENCO (special educational needs co-ordinator) is responsible for supporting early years providers with arranging help and assistance for children who need additional SEND support.

Early years providers must meet the SEN needs of the children they look after, to offer equal opportunities for all children in their care. An Area SENCO may visit the child at their setting and discuss how the child is being supported. They will also offer advice and guidance to the practitioners about effective support for individual children in their care.

Typically, it is the early years provider who requests Area SENCO support, however parents or other professionals can submit a request for Area SENCo support, and the early years provider will be contacted.

Eligibility Criteria:

- the child must attend an early years provider (or be due to start) within Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole
- early years providers must evidence the pathway that they are following (Graduated Response or fast track pathway).



Learning through play sessions

These term time only sessions are for children to explore and experiment through group play and targeted activities. There are two sessions available: Monday to Friday: 9.15am to 12.15pm and Monday to Thursday: 12.45 to 14.45pm. They are offered as a short-term placement and will help to identify what intervention and support may be necessary for the child and their wider family.

When it comes to transitioning out of the centre, staff provide tailored support and advice which may include phone consultations, staff visits, or reciprocal visits between settings.

Children who access learn through play sessions are also able to access playschemes throughout the holidays.

Eligibility Criteria:

- the child must live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole, be aged 0 to 4 years, and have emerging SEND needs
- the sessions are for children who are not currently accessing early years provision and it is helpful to discuss any barriers families may have experienced in accessing mainstream education.

Family outreach

Dingley's Promise family outreach service offers advice, guidance, and signposting for families of children with SEND. A request for family support should be completed where the family would benefit from accessing:

- 1:1 Support – Dingley's Promise family support workers can assist families with emotional support, form filling, help with behavioural or developmental concerns you may have, information and activity ideas for your child, and signposting to other services where relevant. This can be in person, over the phone, by text, email or online.
- home visits - in person support for you and your child at home from Dingley's Promise family support worker.

Eligibility criteria:

- the child must live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole, be aged 0-4 years and have, or may have, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- the child can be accessing an early years provision alongside this offer.



Other support

Dingley's Promise centre in West Howe also offers community based targeted, child-centred activities for children with SEND and can be accessed without a request form. It offers:

- stay and play sessions where children and their siblings can make friends and play, whilst parents and carers have the opportunity to chat to the family support workers for advice or support
- coffee mornings offering an opportunity to meet and chat with other families who have children with SEND
- information sessions for families to learn more about topics such as sensory processing, potty training, sleep and healthy eating.

Eligibility Criteria:

Families can contact the centre direct for further information, no need to fill out a referral form. Spaces on sessions are limited and will need to be booked in advance.

