

Autumn Term No 1

Updates and news for Early Years setting SENDCOs, SEMH and SLC Leads in Torbay Early Years settings

EY SEND Training Opportunities this Autumn/Winter 2022/3

1. National Portage Association Development Day

[NPA Development Day 4th November 2022 - BOOKINGS NOW OPEN | National Portage Association](#)

Keynote Speech: Unpicking Neurodiversity in Preschool Children – Andrew Ryder. Plus, a selection of useful workshops.

You need to be a member of the NPA to attend.

1. Level 3 Early Years Setting SENCO Qualification through Best Practice Network

[Early Years SENCO - Level 3 | Best Practice Network](#)

An exciting opportunity has arisen for all Setting SENCOs wanting to achieve a formal qualification in the SENCO role. FREE to those that apply online from all early years settings including childminders. This is an online course spread out over 4 months. A very worthwhile qualification if you are SENCO.

Best Practice Network is now delivering this on behalf of the DfE rather than NASEN as previously thought.

2. A National Portage Association Workshop – A Small Steps Approach to Learning for Children with SEND

A certified course delivered in Torbay by 2 accredited trainers, over 2 & ½ days on 8th, 15th and 22nd November, bookable through Torbay Council ilearn.

This course has a small cost of £30 which covers the certificate from the NPA.

3. Makaton Part 1 & 2

Certified 1 day courses to be held in Torbay on 19th Jan (Part 1) and 26th Jan (Part 2), bookable through Torbay Council ilearn. You will need to have completed Part 1 at any time, to complete Part 2.

4. The National Deaf Children's Society [Professional resources for early years | Supporting deaf children \(ndcs.org.uk\)](#)

This website has a lot of good information about supporting young children with a hearing impairment, develop good speech, language, and communication skills. There is a section about assessment as well as how to create a good listening environment.

If you sign up for free you can download several resources including a Pragmatic Profile, which looks at how young children are using their communication skills. This may provide good evidence of where the child's needs lie and enable you to structure support plans.

There is a lot of information on NDCS site which would support your CPD in this area of need.

5. Regulation Training

Free whole staff training is still available – please contact Katie for more information katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk

6. SEND Forums

SEND Forums for this the year ahead will be online on

Wed 9th Nov – guest speaker EP

Wed 15th Feb – guest speaker AT for VI

Wed 24th May – guest speaker AT for HI

Book on Torbay Council ilearn

Practical Activities - Wow Boxes

The Torbay Portage Service have won a grant of £200 to set up a communication library for parents receiving portage services. We have decided to make up 20 Wow Boxes to support young children's

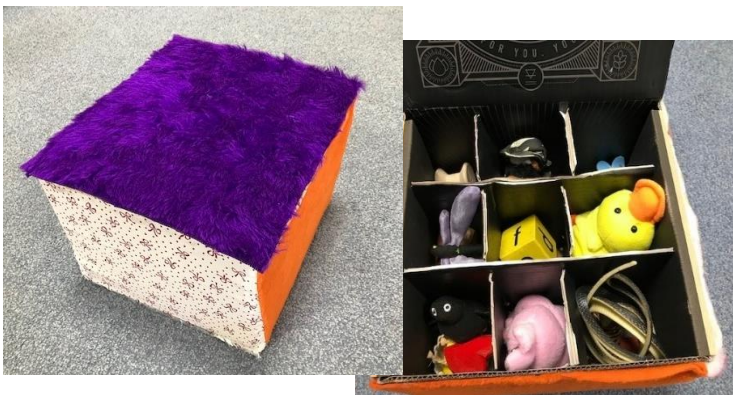
- Engagement with others and toys
- Listening and attention skills
- Exploratory play skills
- Parallel play skills
- Language skills

So far, we have collected the boxes and are about to start ordering the resources to put inside them. Here is an example.



Please look at the Discovery Treasure Box handout, if you want to make one of your own [discovery treasure box with tc format 1.pdf](#) ([openobjects.com](#))

Thank you to **Hazel Hodge from Tops Nursery** who shared her version with me. I particularly liked the textured sides and the compartments inside for all the objects. 😊



Practical Activities - Song Boxes

Often rhyme and song is the first way to engage a child, by using repetitive language and gestures.

There are plenty of websites that cite the top 10 favorite nursery rhymes, including Baa Baa, Incy Wincy, Round and Round the garden and Wheels on the Bus.

The benefits of rhymes and song also include, encouraging young children's co-ordination & fluency of fine & gross motor skills, boosting vocabulary, developing emotional awareness, and gaining a sense of doing something together socially.



We have made song boxes to help engage children to choose and focus on a particular song by using objects in a box. Start introducing choices by having only 2 objects out on the lid of the box, for the child to choose from. Having a box with a lid that locks helps!



Once the child understands that choosing an object is followed by their favorite song or rhyme, start introducing some pictures as well.



These song cards can be found on the National Portage Association Hub [Early Years Songtime Choice Boards | National Portage Association](#) You need to have registered with the NPA to access these ones.

Also try sensory rhymes which combine the familiar words of the rhyme with on-body actions. These might be a gentle touch or something firmer, depending on the child, for example below. Have a go at making your own!

Furry Squirrel (tune to Frère Jacques)

Furry squirrel (smooth circular movements on the child's back)

Furry squirrel (smooth circular movements on the child's back)

Climbing up (cupped hands up the back)

Climbing up (cupped hands up the back)

Collecting spiky pine cones (random fingers on the back)

Collecting spiky pine cones (random fingers on the back)

For my tea (smooth circle and shoulder squeeze)
(smooth circle and shoulder squeeze)



Area SENCO Visits

I would like to complete **Area SENCO visits** for each PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent) setting. This will help me understand how you are supporting the children with SEND in your settings and where I can best use my time regarding support.

It would be helpful if you completed the Microsoft Form survey, which will be sent out to you the second week of the Autumn term. This will ask you for a preferred visiting day and time – I will try my best.

Please have your SEND registers up to date.

I will be focusing on ILDPs this term and looking at individual cases, to support SMART target writing. I will also be looking for recorded review meetings with parents/carers. These things fulfil the Graduated Response to SEND and importantly support co-production and partnership with parents/carers.

I hope you find this bulletin helpful to get you going this term and I look forward to seeing you all over the next few months.

Judith

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Home > Free resources

Free resources

All our downloadable free resources are stored in the Makaton L

Library

[Free resources \(makaton.org\)](https://www.makaton.org)