

**Autumn Term No 2**

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**

**Makaton Part 1 & 2**



Certified 1 day courses to be held in March 2023:

Part 1 – **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Part 2 – **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Now bookable through Torbay Council ilearn. You will need to have completed Part 1 at any time, to complete Part 2.

**SEND Forums**

The Spring term forum will be held on TEAMS on the following date:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** at

10.30-11.30 or 3.45-4.45

These sessions are open to school nursery staff as well as the private, voluntary and independent sector.

To attend the SEND Forums book on through Torbay ilearn.



**Contact is running a free online workshop for early years practitioners**

'Our accessible and jargon-free courses will give you practical ideas about how you can support disabled children and their families in the early years, and enhance your skills to understand parents' concerns and how best to help them'

On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023** 6.30-9.00pm. Please see poster attached to this bulletin to book on.

**Regulation Training**

Free whole staff training is still available – please contact Katie for more information email [Katie katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk)

**Free National Deaf Children's Society training**

[Supporting Children with a Suspected Hearing Loss in Early Years | Confidently identify signs of a child with hearing loss.](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/supporting-children-with-a-suspected-hearing-loss-in-early-years)  
([ndcs.org.uk](https://www.ndcs.org.uk))

# Portage Services



We have recently updated the Service Referral Form for Portage Services, found on the Torbay Council Portage webpage

The updates include a clear header inviting referrers to select whether the referral is for portage services or educational psychology.

We have also updated the criteria for portage services. Children eligible for a service will be those showing 2 or more areas of significant delay **and** who present with a cognition and learning need. The definition of this is as follows:

*'Children presenting with delays in their cognition and learning may initially show difficulties in engagement with others and delayed play skills. Adults may need to adapt the provision or home environment to suit the child's social play skills as well as everyday activities. Crucially, the child's communication and interaction skills may need support from adults through using alternative approaches. The child with delays in cognition and learning may also present with other developmental delays, such as in self-care, fine and gross motor skills and sensory differences'*

Our Small Steps Groups at Zig-Zags Children's Centre and The Beehive Children's Centre will continue on Fridays. This group is open to all families concerned about their child's development and who simply want to drop by and get some advice or share their concerns.

Zig-Zags sessions 10-11.30

The Beehive sessions 1.00-2.30

Ring 01803 210200 for the days we are at the centres.

## The Engagement Model

We have added the Engagement Model guidelines, templates and worked examples on the Torbay SEN Early Years Resources [SEN Early Years Resources | Torbay FIS Directory](#). This model will provide you with another dynamic assessment tool, to support your provision for children with significant SEND needs.

The model includes a **profile** to build up a consistent picture about how children engage and what they are engaged in. There is also a simple **scale** of engagement so that we clearly know how our children look/react when they are at their most and least engaged and therefore understand them better.

Engagement is crucial before targeted learning can happen. We can use what engages the child, as a starting point to learning. These are the 5 areas of engagement to look out for!

### Exploration

To notice and show curiosity in an item through touch, looking and manipulation

### Anticipation

To predict something happening using prior learning to inform.

### Initiation

To act spontaneously and independently to trigger something happening.

### Realisation

To notice something new about an item or event and to show excitement, recognition,

surprise at this – perhaps at their impact on the item, perhaps experiencing the effect of someone else’s actions.

### Persistence

To sustain interest in an activity or stimulus for long enough that they can try to find out more

You are very welcome to discuss working together with us - either the child’s portage home visitor or myself, when first creating a profile/scale for the child of concern.

## Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

We are fortunate to have Katie Mackle’s time to support the setting practitioners with social and emotional needs. We are very aware, as early years SEND service, that there are high levels of need in this area at the moment. Katie is able to support you in the following ways:

### Self- regulation training

Self- regulation training will still be available after Christmas. The Regulation PowerPoint lasts for an hour following this the Regulation Policy and practice can be discussed. This may take 30 minutes or longer depending on the level of need. These sessions are offered at a mutually convenient time so all the staff team can attend which is often at 6-7.30 pm. Please contact Katie via [katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:katie.mackle@torbay.gov.uk) to arrange.

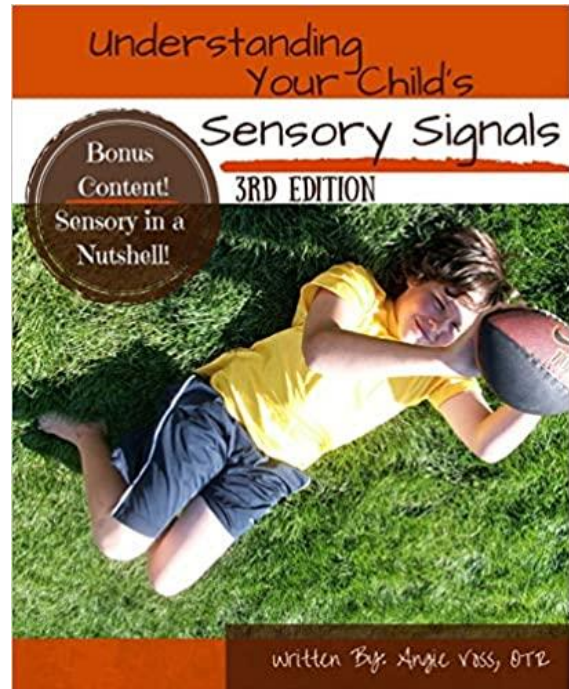
### Support visits for children with a high level of social and emotional need:

Settings are also welcome to contact Katie for support regarding children with high

levels of SEMH need. Please use the email above to access a visit.

## Useful Resources

Understanding Your Child’s Sensory Signals by Angie Voss



Let’s Talk Behaviour by Wendy Usher



Thank you for reading our bulletin!

Judith Thomas & Katie Mackle

EYATs, Children’s Services, Torbay Council