**Useful Links for Parents/Carers of Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities**

**Dorset Family Information Service**

Dorset Family Information Service (FIS) is a free, impartial information service for parents and carers of children and young people aged up to 19, or up to 25 years for those with [special educational needs or disability (SEND)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer.aspx).

**Finding a Nursery**

Every nursery must post their accessibility and a summary of their SEN provision on the Family Information Service website. The Early Years section of the FIS can be found here:

<https://familyinformationdirectory.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/kb5/dorset/fsd/results.page?familychannel=100&term=&sorttype=field&sortfield=title>

**Speech and Language Therapy**

If you are worried about your child’s development of communication and language skills, you can self-refer to a Speech Therapy drop-in session. Book a 20-minute slot with a therapist for advice and support.

<https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/physical-health/paediatric-speech-and-language-therapy/family-access/lets-talk>

01202 443200

**Portage Pre-school Support**

Portage is a home visiting educational service for preschool aged children under 5 years olf with long-term support needs and their families.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer/support-in-the-early-years-schools-and-settings/portage-preschool-support>

01929 557000

**Dorset Parent-Carer Council**

DPCC is run by parents and carers, for parents and carers of children and young people age 0 - 25 with special educational needs or disability (SEND) who live in Dorset.

Their aim is to improve services for children and young people by ensuring that families’ voices are heard by planners and decision-makers. If you need support of any kind just ring and they will use their experience as parents of children with SEND to help.

<https://www.dorsetparentcarercouncil.co.uk/>

07827 793244

[**The Dorset Local Offer**](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer)

Dorset’s Local Offer has been developed for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and their families to be the one place you need to visit for all information.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/activities-the-local-offer/local-offer-activities>

[**Dorset SENDIASS**](https://www.dorsetsendiass.co.uk/)

SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service.

It’s a free, impartial, and confidential service offering information to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to their parents and carers.

<https://www.dorsetsendiass.co.uk/>

01305 595477

**Council For Disabled Children.**

The Early Years SEND Partnership is a national programme supporting professionals and parents with training, resources, and an approach to sharing learning, with the aim to increase access and inclusion in early years for children with SEN and Disabilities

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/about-us-0/networks/early-years-send>