



Nottingham
City Council

**The Early
Years Team**



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 37 – Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

New CPD Brochure & Network Offer

Our latest Early Years **CPD Brochure** is now [available to download](#), bringing together our full programme of training, networks and professional development opportunities for the year ahead. Whether you're planning your own development or looking for opportunities for your team, the brochure is the best place to explore what's on offer and book upcoming courses. Download the brochure and start planning your CPD today.

Also see the **attached handy monthly calendar** to view September & October courses at a glance.

Our **Early Years Leadership and SENCO Network Memberships** are now open for 2026/27, at a discounted rate if both Networks are **booked before 30th October 2026**! Each Network programme has been designed in response to needs identified from the sector. In addition, all Leadership Networks will now be delivered in person to enable vital networking opportunities, and a marketplace will be available to enable you to keep updated with new materials, resources and information. Guest Speakers are booked for all 3 sessions with SALT and Ben Kingston-Hughes from Inspired Children presenting in the Autumn and the Spring. Leadership Network Membership also includes a free Room Leaders Network Session. **All only available through your Network Membership! Please see the attached flier or [click here for more information](#)!**

Read what's coming up next - Important but not urgent information

Save The Date for the Relaunch of the Balanced System Pathway

Tuesday 6th October 2026, 9am – 12pm at the National Ice Centre

The Balanced System Pathway supports families, carers, and professionals by connecting them with national guidance and locally relevant community resources to help identify and access the appropriate support for a child or young person's speech, language, and communication development needs. The Pathway is being refreshed to ensure all content is accurate and up to date and on 6th October we invite you to join us for an engaging and interactive session to showcase how the Balanced System Pathway can be effectively used, offer practical, hands-on sessions to explore the Pathway in action and share real-life case studies demonstrating effective use and impact to provide valuable insights and opportunities to develop your understanding and confidence in applying the Pathway within your practice and supporting children and families. Please look out for further information in early September.

Help us shape the Children and Education Services Strategy 2026-2029

We are currently developing the Children and Education Services Strategy 2026–2029, which will set out our shared direction for the next three years. The strategy will set out our shared direction for the next 3 years and help us describe what we are prioritising, how we will work together, and how we will improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Nottingham. We want the strategy to be shaped by what people are telling us. That includes colleagues, children and young people, parents and carers, residents, schools, partners, voluntary and community sector organisations, and others who know our services and communities well. Please share and complete the relevant short survey by Sunday 9th August 2026:

- [Survey link for parents, carers and residents](#)
- [Survey link for staff, partners and professionals](#)

New SENIF Vodcast

We are pleased to share that a vodcast has been designed to support early years providers in applying for the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF). The vodcast provides guidance on the application process and offers practical advice to help providers complete applications effectively. The vodcast can be found on the link below <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/equality-and-inclusion/early-years-send-fund-disability-access-funding/>

Priority Services Register (PSR) – Support for Families and Staff

The PSR is a free UK-wide service that provides additional advice and support for eligible households, including extra assistance and communications during interruptions to electricity, gas or water supplies. Parents and carers with children under five can register, as can people who are reliant on medical equipment, have a disability, a chronic illness, a mental health condition, or other circumstances that mean they may need extra support. Eligibility is not limited to these groups. If anyone in a household meets the vulnerability criteria – even on a temporary basis – they may be eligible to join the PSR. The PSR helps utility companies identify households that may need extra support, including priority updates during supply interruptions, tailored communications, and access to additional assistance where needed. Parents, carers and members of the early years workforce can register themselves directly and find out more at [The PSR - The Priority Services Register \(PSR\)](#)

Safeguarding Children Refresher

Start the new academic year with a fresh understanding of safeguarding responsibilities, procedures and current developments. This short online refresher is ideal for practitioners who have completed safeguarding training within the last two years. Courses available **Wednesday 12 August 2026 (10am–12pm) or Tuesday 8 September 2026 (10am–12pm or 1pm–3pm)** - Book your place [here](#)

Safeguarding information

EYFS Framework Changes Effective from 1 September 2026

The Department for Education has published updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, effective from 1 September 2026. The changes focus on strengthening safeguarding and welfare requirements. For full details, please refer to the updated EYFS statutory framework and qualification guidance, [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](#). Key updates include:

- Enhanced recruitment, vetting and volunteer safeguarding checks.
- Stronger alignment with [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) 2026](#) for school-based nurseries and reception classes.
- Updated qualification guidance for staff counted within EYFS staff-to-child ratios at Levels 2, 3 & 6.
- Revised safer sleep guidance for babies and young children.
- A new requirement to consider children's screen use and its impact on wellbeing.
- A prohibition on providing childcare where banned dog breeds are present on the premises.
- Additional safeguarding clarifications and strengthened expectations for providers.
- New notification requirements for childcare providers operating on domestic premises regarding individuals aged 16+ living or working on-site

Working or Volunteering in Regulated Activity with Children

Due to the Crime and Policing Act 2026, there is a change to regulated activity which will come into force in September 2026. The change affects settings which rely on volunteers. This is because of the removal of the supervision exemption. From 1 September 2026, all volunteers engaging in regulated activity will need an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information. This also applied to holiday clubs and wraparound care. Providers should read the full guidance here - [Regulated activity: removal of the supervision exemption \(comes into force 1 September 2026\) - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards

The updated guidance, which comes into effect on 1 September, clarifies the qualifications that practitioners must hold to be included within the statutory staff-to-child ratios for Level 2, Level 3 and Level 6 roles under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. For more information click [Early years qualification requirements and standards - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Inspection Toolkit

On 12 June 2026, Ofsted published updates to the education inspection materials under the renewed Education Inspection Framework (EIF) for early years providers. The updated toolkit, operating guide and supporting information will apply to inspections from September 2026. Existing inspection materials remain in use until then. For more information click [Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](#)

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