

September 2024
All Sector Issue 22

2024
Autumn
Term Edition

Nottingham City Early Years Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the start of another academic year! We hope this finds you all well and you enjoy reading our Autumn Term 2024 All Sector Newsletter.

This issue provides updates on workforce development opportunities and revamped courses, key dates for your diary, funding information, the new early years entitlements for working parents of children aged 9+ months, Childcare Expansion Funding, Recruitment Campaigns, SEND updates, news from the Department for Education, information on Safer Sleeping, a Spotlight On Safeguarding and Networks and Early Years Team news! A bumper edition!

Please remember, we continue to value your honest feedback, which you can share by emailing your comments to earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Best wishes,
The Early Years Team

*Inside this
Issue!*

Key information on local and national CPD opportunities, the expansion of the new early years entitlements and key dates for your diary, SEND Updates, funding opportunities and much more!



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Workforce Development Update

Please also see the Team News Section at the end of the Newsletter.

As we start another CPD Programme for the new academic year of 2024/25, please see the following information as a reminder of our course fees and Cancellation Policy.

Course Fees

All course fees can be paid by debit/credit card over the phone by calling Katie (Tuesday-Friday) on 0115 87 61277. All course fees which are less than £30 must be paid this way. Invoices will only be raised for courses totalling over £30 and will be raised after the course date. If invoices are issued and not paid, pre-payment over the phone will be the only option for booking future courses until outstanding invoices are settled.

Cancellation Policy

Our courses/briefing sessions whether online or face to face, paid for or free of charge, are subsidised in some way, therefore we are required to put measures in place to enable us to continue to provide a quality programme for the Early Years sector. Please ensure you have read the below terms and conditions regarding required notice of attendance or cancellation. Once you have submitted your application, your place will be allocated. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you must cancel, please do so by emailing eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk as soon as possible, ideally not less than 48 hours before the course commences.

Please Note:

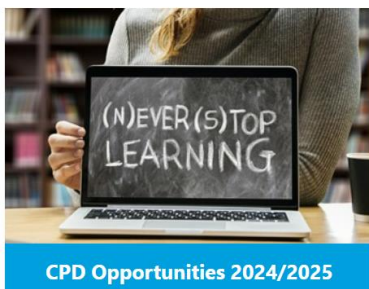
Face to face and online training*: If you cancel less than 48 hours before the course is due to start, or do not attend on the day, you will be charged 100% of the course fee and no refund will be made if you have paid in advance. (* This includes Agreement Trialling and New to the EYFSP due to room hire and/or trainer/facilitator costs).

Online Information/Briefing Sessions or Workshops: To enable us to continue running free online information/briefing sessions and funding portal workshops we are required to show a good attendance. Therefore, we still require 48 hours' notice of cancellations and any non-attendance on the day will be monitored, with a view to reinstating a charge of £30 for frequent non-attendance.

Networks: (Leadership, Room Leaders and SENCO) As above, to enable us to continue running our networks we are required to show a good attendance, therefore annual membership must be renewed and paid for in advance of the autumn** session and attendance **must** be confirmed (via online or email to eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) for each session both online or face to face. (** New members can join throughout the year at a reduced charge for remaining sessions).

In-House/Bespoke Training requests: Once your request has been confirmed by email, any cancellations will incur a 10% administration charge and if the course is cancelled less than 48 hours before the course is due to start, you will be charged 100% of the agreed course fee.

CPD Training



Autumn Term Courses and Updated CPD pages on the Website

As you can see from our 'Key Dates for your Diary' (pages 9-11), we have a wealth of CPD opportunities available over the Autumn Term with over 20 courses and 5 Networks running between September and December. On the CPD Pages on our website you will find our local CPD Opportunities, Terms and Conditions for Bookings and National CPD Opportunities - <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/cpd-training/>

The courses on the CPD Opportunities page are categorised under EYFS Prime and Specific Areas of Learning, Equality, Access and Inclusion, Safeguarding, Supporting Leadership and Statutory and Core Training, with direct links to each course listed. Please do take the time to look at the detail and content of the courses available on the CPD pages of the website where you will also find the booking link for each course.

Alternatively, if you know which course you want to book, go straight to https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking

Agreement Trialling

During the 2023/24 academic year, we delivered 24 Agreement Trialling sessions to 295 practitioners from 74 different settings (60 schools and 14 PVI settings), with representation from 12 different school trusts, nursery chains, maintained schools and independent nurseries.

These sessions had some great feedback, with comments including:

- *I came away feeling part of a community*
- *Great to talk to others and draw on different experiences*
- *Reassuring, helpful and supportive*
- *Updates and resources always give ideas to take back to my setting*
- *A valuable opportunity for networking and sharing practice*
- *Great confidence boost – friendly and informative*
- *Warm and welcoming*
- *Valued opportunity to talk about SEND children and get practical ideas to take back*
- *The most valuable CPD this year*

Back for the 2024/25 academic year, these free sessions provide a valuable discussion and networking opportunity for early years practitioners. The sessions provide updates and ideas to enhance provision, enabling practitioners to develop confidence and consistency when making assessment judgements and planning next steps.

Sessions are suitable for those working across the sector and we offer sessions for those teaching 3-4-year-olds (Pre-School) and 4-5-year-olds (Rising 5s/Reception).

[Book your space](#) and come and join us!

	Age	Focus Areas	Date	Venue	Time Options
Autumn Term	Pre-School / 3-4s	Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Communication and Language	5 th November 2024	Castle Cavendish	09:00-12:00
					13:00-16:00
			6 th November 2024	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30
					13:00-15:30
	Reception / Rising 5s	Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Expressive Arts and Design	26 th November 2024	Castle Cavendish	09:00-12:00
					13:00-16:00
27 th November 2024	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30			
		13:00-15:30			

Open Your Eyes Training – Revamped!

This series of training sessions is designed for all Nottingham City Practitioners in mainstream schools or PVI settings who are working within Early Years. Whether you are just starting out in a new role, have previous experience and have changed year groups or wish to refresh or deepen your knowledge of the newly updated early years framework, then this is the course for you!

The training is delivered over four sessions, through a combination of face to face and online sessions and is designed to provide delegates with a deeper understanding of all aspects of the new early years statutory framework. These sessions will provide an opportunity to consider how to develop effective teaching and learning, both through the training and through a series of gap tasks designed to encourage new learning to be rehearsed within the setting.

Over the course sessions, we will cover:

- The key principles of the EYFS; the unique child, building positive relationships, enabling environments and learning and development
- Effective early years pedagogy
- The critical role of the adult in the early years
- The observation, assessment and planning cycle
- What good teaching and learning looks like in the EYFS and how to be 'Ofsted ready'



We also look at the statutory and non-statutory guidance to see how these can support practitioners in their understanding of child development, and we will spend time finding out about the areas of learning, educational programmes, characteristics of teaching and learning, observations, assessments, planning, timetabling, environment, continuous and enhanced provision.

The cost of the four sessions is £120 per delegate and details of the sessions are as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 1 st October 2024	09:15 – 12:15	Castle Cavendish
Tuesday 19 th November 2024	10:00 – 11:30	Online
Tuesday 10 th December 2024	10:00 – 11:30	Online
Tuesday 21 st January 2025	09:15 – 12:15	Castle Cavendish

To find out more, please visit the CPD pages of the website, or contact eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk and to book on, please [click here](#)

Training Opportunities from Other Organisations



THE DELIGHTS: CREATIVE IDEAS WORKSHOP

For Practitioners working with early years children

FREE PLACES ARE LIMITED BOOK NOW!



Inspire and empower your creative practice & embed creative materials in your early years practice

- Develop new ideas for indoor and outdoor play and methods to enhance physical literacy in young children.
- See the latest participatory performance by Makers of Imaginary Worlds and Turned on Its Head.
- Engage in a hands-on workshop to craft playful, tactile objects inspired by the show to bring back to your setting.
- Take away a storybook resource with QR links for how to source and make our props to use with your children.

The Delights is a three-year initiative investigating outdoor play and fostering creativity in children aged 0-4.

Wednesday 18th Sept 2024
City Arts
11-13 Hockley, NG1 1FH,
Nottingham



TIMED SLOTS AVAILABLE BETWEEN 9.30AM AND 4PM. USE THE QR CODE TO BOOK OR

CLICK HERE

Led by skilled and experienced artists in visual art and dance, our research is culminating in a participatory performance for children and their families across Nottingham City. Our work enables families to:

- explore new sensory experiences
- cultivate positive relationships with local green spaces.
- inspire wonder and encourage new imaginative play opportunities

SEE THE SHOW AT THESE FREE EVENTS!

Tuesday 30th July, Hyson Green Recreation Ground
Thursday 2nd August, Bulwell Park (Near the Toy Library)
Tuesday 6th August, Melbroune Park, Aspley
Thursday 8th August, King Edwards Park, St Anns



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



TURNED ON ITS HEAD HOOPLA! FABRIC

For more information and to book your ticket see the Eventbrite link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/training-for-early-years-practitioners-in-nottingham-movement-making-tickets-931631082647>

Peep Training Opportunity from Nottingham Family Hubs

Peep is an evidence-based, learning together, programme that supports parents in beginning to understand their child's development and improve the Home Learning Environment through everyday activities and experiences. The programme has a firm belief in low cost/no cost activities.

Peep provide 222 different session plans, on 75 different topics, for ages 0-5 years, grouped under 5 strands of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Early literacy development
- Early numeracy development
- Health and physical development

By attending Peep training, practitioners will be given the opportunity to complete a Level 3 Practitioner Qualification in 'Supporting Parents and Children to Learn Together' and the practitioner's setting will receive a Resource Pack to help you get started.

This great training opportunity is being funded by Nottingham Family Hubs and is free to attend. Training is operating on a first-come, first-served basis and is taking place on the following dates:

Date	Venue	Times
9 th & 10 th September 2024	Broxtowe Family Hub	All training is 9am – 5pm
8 th & 9 th October 2024	Bestwood Family Hub	
7 th & 8 th November 2024	Bestwood Family Hub	

For more information and to book onto the training, please email Charlotte Haigh at charlotte.haigh@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



**Changing Lives.
Changing Futures.**



**Nottingham
City Council**

Play and Playwork Training Opportunity

Nottinghamshire County Council have commissioned Bulwell Toy Library to deliver some Play and Playwork Training, focused specifically for Play Workers working in Out of School Clubs.

There is an offer of three courses available and whilst delegates are welcome to book all three sessions, they can also be accessed as individual sessions as required. All courses are free.

Course Title	Date	Time	Venue
The Internal Space	Thursday 19 th September 2024	10:00 – 13:00	Arnold Library
The External Space	Thursday 17 th October 2024	10:00 – 13:00	Arnold Library
Games and Activities for All	Tuesday 12 th November 2024	10:00 – 13:00	Arnold Methodist Church

If you would like more information and to book on these courses with a City Provider ticket, please go to [Play and Playwork | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Father-Inclusion and the Family Hubs 'What works' in Engaging Dads 8th October 2024



You are invited to a one-day workshop in Nottingham to explore what is happening with father-inclusion in the national Start for Life Programme and the Family Hubs. Supported by [Small Steps Big Changes](#) (Nottingham) and representing a collaboration between the [Centre for Innovation in Fatherhood and Family Research](#) (University of Lincoln) and the National Institute for Health and Care Research Yorkshire and Humber Applied Research Collaborative (NIHR Y&H ARC). The conference will take place on Tuesday 8th October 2024, 10 – 4pm at Trent Vineyard, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 2PX.

Join us to hear talks from dads on parent/carer panels, national Family Hub partners, father-inclusive services and academic researchers that are involved in pioneering father-inclusion in the Family Hubs nationally and instigating and capturing best practice.

Chaired by Scott Mair of Fatherhood Solutions you can hear from the following speakers:

- Anna Bedford, Joint Deputy Head of Early Years and Prevention, Anna Freud Centre (TBC)
- Professor Anna Tarrant, University of Lincoln/Centre for Innovation in Fatherhood and Family Research
- Dr Ruth Naughton-Doe, NIHR Y&H ARC and the University of York
- Felicity Callon, Small Steps Big Changes, Nottingham
- Kevin Stoodley, CEO North-East Young Dads and Lads
- FutureMen, London
- Alex Paterson, Best Beginnings

Keiran Anders from Dad Matters, Manchester will host a panel including fathers who are representatives on parent/carer panels across the UK.

Interactive sessions in the afternoon will support networking, the sharing of best practice, the co-creation of a consensus statement on future directions for father-inclusion in services, and a zine making workshop to capture key learning about what works, challenges and barriers, and future directions.

Anyone with an interest in father-inclusive practice, fatherhood and family research, and child and family-facing support is welcome to attend.

Follow this link to register to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/father-inclusion-and-the-family-hubs-what-works-in-engaging-dads-tickets-992546682847?aff=oddtcreator>

For queries, please contact Rosanna Bartlett-Dickinson (RBartlettDickinson@lincoln.ac.uk)



Key Autumn Term Dates for your Diary

This is a summary of key dates from the Early Years Term, including dates relating to Early Years Funding, Training and Networks and SEND Funding, which have been colour coordinated for ease as follows;

	Early Years Funding Related Dates
	Training and Network Dates
	SEND Funding Related Dates

For full information on all training courses, including timings, venues and cost, please visit the CPD pages of the Early Years Website and book all courses online at

https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking

If you've not yet booked your Annual Membership for SENCO and/or Leadership Networks for 2024-25, please email eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

September 2024	
1 st September	Part One – Autumn Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment <i>based on summer portal claim</i>
2 nd September	Headcount task open for autumn funding claim
6 th September	Deadline for requesting Additional Interim Estimate Payment For children accessing the new Working Parent Entitlement for 9 - 23 months in the Autumn Term
13 th September	Deadline for Expression of Interest Forms for Childcare Expansion Funding
13 th September	SEND Funding – Moderation Deadline for October Interim Funding Moderation must be completed prior to submission of funding requests. Please contact eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to book as soon as possible
16 th September	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
17 th September	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
20 th September	SEND Funding – Submission Deadline for October Interim Funding
23 rd September	Introduction to Safeguarding Children Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
25 th September	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector
27 th September	Headcount task closes for autumn term funding claim <i>last day to submit claim</i>

October 2024	
1 st October	Part Two – Autumn Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment <i>based on summer portal claim</i>
1 st October	Open Your Eyes to the EYFS Training – Part 1 Suitable for all sectors
2 nd October	Designated Safeguarding Leads Training Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
8 th October	Childminder Network Suitable for Nottingham City Childminders Only
10 th October	SEND Funding – Autumn Interim Panel Meeting
11 th October <i>(provisional date)</i>	Confirmation report deadline <i>you may also be contacted about double claims</i>
17 th October	Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
14 th October	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
15 th October	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
November 2024	
1 st November	Final Autumn Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment <i>based on summer portal claim</i>
5 th November	F1 Agreement Trialling Sessions Face to face session, suitable for all sectors
6 th November	F1 Agreement Trialling Sessions Online session, suitable for all sectors
7 th November	SENCO Network Suitable for PVI Sector Group Based Settings
11 th November	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
12 th November	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
13 th November	DSL Networks Suitable for the PVI Sector
15 th November	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector
15 th November	SEND Funding – Moderation Deadline for Main Panel Moderation must be completed prior to submission of funding requests. Please contact eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to book
19 th November	Open Your Eyes to the EYFS Training – Part 2 Suitable for all sectors
20 th November	Leadership Network Suitable for the PVI Sector
22 nd November	SEND Funding – Submission Deadline for Main Panel

25 th November	Prevent Training Suitable for the PVI Sector
26 th November	F2 Agreement Trialling Sessions Face to face session, suitable for all sectors
27 th November	F2 Agreement Trialling Sessions Online session, suitable for all sectors
December 2024	
4 th December	Workshop on early years entitlements claiming process Suitable for the School Sector
5 th December	Room Leaders Network Suitable for the PVI Sector
10 th December	Open Your Eyes to the EYFS Training – Part 3 Suitable for all sectors
11 th December	Workshop for providers new to delivering funded early years entitlement places Suitable for the PVI Sector
11 th December	Refresher workshop for providers delivering funded early years entitlement places Suitable for the PVI Sector
15 th December	Balance payment <i>only paid if estimate has not covered earnings</i>
31 st December	Last date to send <u>funding adjustment form</u> <i>used to inform us of any late starters/early leavers which will be paid/invoiced at the start of Spring term.</i>

PVI Providers - Please Save the Date for our Annual Early Years Business Meetings, which will be held on Thursday 6th February 2025

For any **funding related queries**, please check the Funding Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

You can **book all these courses online** at https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking and if you have any questions or would like to enrol for **Network Membership**, please contact eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

For any **SEND Funding related queries**, please check out the Equality and Inclusion Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Early Years Funding

Autumn 2024 Estimate Funding Payments

Providers will have received part 1 of their estimate payments as they are made around 1st September 2024. Estimate payments, part 2, will be paid around 1st October and part 3 around 1st November 2024.

If you have requested an additional estimate payment for the new 9 - 23 months working parent entitlement, this will be paid in October 2024, at the latest, as a lump sum. Please remember to add these children on to your portal claims as usual, to ensure you receive a balance payment.

Autumn Head Count

Autumn Term Headcount opened on 2nd September and closes on 27th September 2024. Please remember that although your portal return will be submitted by 27th September 2024, your estimate payments will remain the same amount as these are based on last term and are signed off in advance of the current term.

Balance Payments

Balance Payments for the Autumn Term will be paid around 15th December 2024 and as per the Provider Agreement, any debt owed will be taken off from any amounts we may owe you this term (for example, if you owe us funding back for a 2-year-old, but we owe you funding for a 3-year-old). If after this there is an outstanding debt, we will work with you to agree whether to take this off future payments or raise an invoice.

Confirmation Reports

Please look out for the email for actual deadline, but this is provisionally set for 11th October. Please ensure you look through your confirmation report within the deadline given. It is crucial that the details on your report are accurate, and this is the time to amend, add any new starters or reduce hours for any leavers.

It is particularly important to look at both the universal and extended/expanded columns to ensure that you are claiming the correct hours for all entitlements. So, if you are providing funded places for the working parent entitlements this should show in the expanded column. If you are providing 30 hours, 15 hours should show in both columns. If you are sharing the 30 hours offer with another provider, ensure that your 15 hours are in either the universal **or** extended column, depending upon what was agreed when the placement was offered.

All changes will be included in main balance payments which will be paid on 15th December 2024, unless we receive the reports late or require further information which may take us over the deadline for them to be included.

Adjustments

Any amendments due to leavers or starters after the confirmation report stage, will need to be made using the adjustment form found here https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/early_years_funding, please remember that adjustment forms need to be completed and sent by 31st December in order to receive in order to receive payment. Depending upon volumes of adjustments and changes on confirmation reports, we aim to include some adjustments on main payments, if not these will be paid at the start of the following term as per the Provider Agreement.

End of Term Reports

These will be emailed out again as opposed to being available on the portal due to the manual estimate. They give a breakdown, and most payment queries can be answered using them. Please remember that not all adjustments will be included.

Please all see the training calendar on the previous pages for dates of portal training and key deadlines and save the date for the 2025 Annual Business Meeting (PVI Providers) – Thursday 6th February 2025.

A Note on Notice Periods for Funded Early Years Entitlement Places

We are aware that notice periods continue to be an issue for some providers and would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate the position in Nottingham City, having followed up queries raised with our neighbouring local authority and our DfE Adviser.

We are aware some providers have, or work closely with, settings in the City and in Nottinghamshire County and that there is a different approach to notice periods between the local authorities. Having met with colleagues in Nottinghamshire County we understand that sometimes a notice period is paid to a setting when a child leaves unexpectedly, but it was noted that this then effects the new setting taking the child on, who cannot receive funding until the notice period has been paid at the old setting, despite the new setting providing the care. The bill for these first few weeks at the new setting then either needs to be paid by the parent, or the parent being asked to start at the new setting later, once the previous notice period has expired. This then effectively moves the issue from the old setting to the new setting and does not fit with our position that settings should be paid fairly and equally for the care they are providing for a child who is physically attending their setting, a position supported by our DfE Adviser.

Therefore, in Nottingham City, as per our current Provider Agreement, we will continue to not pay for notice periods and act financially prudently by the funding following the child, not funding empty places or double funding children. As shared previously, this decision is at the discretion of each local authority and is largely dependent on resources available. Nottingham City is a very different demographic to our neighbouring local authority areas, with every school having a nursery attached and a local rich and diverse PVI sector, with much more movement between settings. As always, we will continue to use the discretion we have available to us where appropriate and will continue to apply this on a case-by-case basis.

Further information on notice periods can be found in the Provider Agreement and in the latest Frequently Asked Questions document from the last Annual Business Meeting, both of which can be accessed at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/early-years-funding/>



UK Government

Help for Households

To receive Tax-Free Childcare payments from parents and carers

Register and sign up

Check if you're eligible today
Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare Choices

This advertisement features a green background with a white box at the top left containing the UK Government logo and the text 'UK Government'. To the right is a white box with the text 'Help for Households'. The main text is in white and green, promoting tax-free childcare. At the bottom, there is a photograph of three teddy bears of different sizes and colors (brown, tan, and light brown) sitting together. The 'Childcare Choices' logo is at the bottom left.



UK Government

Help for Households

Does your school offer wraparound childcare?

Check if you're eligible today
Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare Choices

This advertisement features a green background with a white box at the top left containing the UK Government logo and the text 'UK Government'. To the right is a white box with the text 'Help for Households'. The main text is in white and green, asking if schools offer wraparound childcare. At the bottom, there is a photograph of three teddy bears of different sizes and colors (brown, tan, and light brown) sitting together. The 'Childcare Choices' logo is at the bottom left.

Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements & Wraparound Childcare programme

Following the introduction of the new working parent entitlement for children aged 2 in April 2024, this term sees the introduction of 15 hours of funded provision being extended to working parents of children from the age of 9 – 23 months. We have offered an interim additional estimate payment for these children, with a deadline for submission of 6th September 2024, to ensure providers receive some funding for these children during the term and as noted in the funding article above, if you have requested this additional estimate payment, please remember to add these children on to your portal claims as usual, to ensure you receive a balance payment.

Checking Eligibility Codes

Existing and prospective parents will be bringing eligibility codes to you to validate. We would encourage providers to validate these codes promptly on the portal, the same as all other working parent codes, before you offer the parent a funded place.

Support Resources

The funding section of the Early Years Website has a specific page around the new early years entitlements and we would particularly encourage all providers to look at the business planning and other resources that Childcare Works are providing on their Childcare Works HUB page at <https://childcareworks.org.uk/>

Childcare Expansion Funding: Expression of Interest

The DfE has allocated funding to local authorities to support local delivery of the childcare reforms (30 hours of free childcare for children over the age of nine months and wraparound care in primary schools). In Nottingham City, funding will be made available to schools and childcare providers through the *Childcare Expansion Funding Programme*, with applications being made available for capital funding for the expansion of the early years entitlements and capital and revenue funding to increase the supply of wraparound childcare.

Ahead of the roll out of the above Programme in the Autumn Term; we emailed an Expression of Interest Form to all primary schools and childcare providers on 23rd August 2024 to enable providers to plan for expansion in preparation for the Childcare Expansion Funding Programme opening for applications and to enable the LA to understand the scope for expansion where our data identifies that future demand for childcare services exceeds current supply and explore plans that do not fit into those wards identified for priority expansion.

Having read the supporting Guidance Document, **Expression of Interest Forms should be completed by 13th September 2024** and emailed to earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk and further information and documentation can be found at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/news/early-years-expansion/>

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE:

- Submitting an EOI does not guarantee securing funding through the full Childcare Expansion Funding Programme
- The EOI will only be available until the Childcare Expansion Funding Programme is launched
- Potential applications do not have to submit an EOI prior to submitting a full application, this is purely an opportunity for potential early applicants to share their plans with the LA
- A full application form with supporting evidence will be required for submission when the Childcare Expansion Funding Programme is launched, this will be assessed by a Grant Panel against clear criteria
- Funding will not be awarded to support costs that have already been incurred or are incurred prior to the date of any grant approval letter

For more information, please visit <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/early-years-funding/expansion-of-the-early-years-entitlements/> and if you have any queries, please speak to your EYFS Support Worker or email earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Do Something BIG! Work with Small Children!

In August 2024, the Department for Education re-launched their 'Do Something BIG! Work with Small Children' campaign, focused on growing the workforce and increasing capacity. We know that the recruitment of available and high-quality early years and childcare staff continues to be an issue for the sector and we are promoting this national campaign on our website and social media channel.

In addition to the new 'Do Something BIG! Work with Small Children' national multi-channel broadcast recruitment campaign, with a new website to promote careers and search for vacancies, the DfE are also aiming to attract talented staff by:

- Promoting the Early Years Educator Apprenticeships marketing campaign
- Collaborating with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Careers and Enterprise Company to promote Early Years Careers
- Offering childminder grants of up to £1,200

They are also maximising the skills pipeline by:

- Offering Early Years Bootcamps – creating a pathway to accelerated L3 EY Educator Apprenticeships
- Exploring a new degree apprenticeship route
- Exploring Early Years apprenticeship funding band increases

The DfE are utilising the skills of the existing workforce by:

- Updating the EYFS Framework, alleviating known burdens and offering increased flexibility and developing provider specific guidance
- Introducing changes to ratios
- Exploring an experience-based route to L3 ratios for early years staff
- Looking at new childminder flexibilities
- Strengthening EYFS safeguarding requirements

The 'Do Something BIG! Work with Small Children' [campaign website](#) has all the information to help people take steps to start their own early years and childcare career, with job application advice, information on training and qualifications and real life stories of those already in early years and childcare.

The '[Do Something Big' Communications Toolkit](#) contains information and resources to help communicate the campaign messages and amplify recruitment activity for your setting.

You can get involved by posting your vacancies on the DWP Find a Job Platform!

The campaign directs potential applicants to the [DWP Find a job](#) vacancy platform to search for early years roles in their area. This service is free to use and will ensure vacancies are seen by a large pool of potential candidates so please take advantage of this free recruitment platform available to you, just follow the instructions on [how to create an employer account](#) and post any current or upcoming roles in your setting on [Find a Job](#).



All this information and the latest updates can also be found on our website -

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/looking-after-your-childcare-business/being-an-employer/dfe-do-something-big-recruitment-campaign/>

SEND Update

Please see below the key HLN / SEND Funding Dates for 2024-25 to pop in your diaries....

Deadline for Moderation	Deadline for Submission	Panel Date
12 noon Friday 13 th September 2024	12 noon Friday 20 th September 2024	Thursday 10 th October 2024 Autumn Interim Panel
12 noon Friday 15 th November 2024	12 noon Friday 22 nd November 2024	Tuesday 14 th January 2025 Spring Panel
12 noon Friday 21 st March 2025	12 noon Friday 28 th March 2025	Thursday 24 th April 2025 Summer 1 Interim Panel
12 noon Friday 16 th May 2025	12 noon Friday 23 rd May 2025	Thursday 12 th June 2025 Summer 2 Interim Panel

These dates and the application guidance can also be found on the early years website at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/equality-and-inclusion/early-years-send-fund-disability-access-funding/> **Please note applications received after the deadline will not be viewed by the Panel**

Amendments Forms

Please remember to complete and return Amendments Forms for any child who has changed their Early Years Entitlement Hours with you, or have left your setting, so we can ensure funding follows the child where required. <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/rumfu5ox/application-amendments-form-send-funding.docx>

Change to the Moderation Process

Some changes to the Moderation Process will come into effect ahead of the main HLN/SEND Funding Panel in January 2025 and therefore affect the Moderation Process during October and November, in preparation for this Panel. It is hoped the changes will streamline the Moderation Process, bring greater consistency and help build capacity in settings as well as support teams.

The changes for the October and November 2024 Moderation Process, and moving forwards, will be:

- Settings will now be required to have 10% of their bids moderated, rather than all bids
- All settings will need to have a minimum of 1 bid moderated
- Settings must select their own bids for moderation, ideally these should be of different primary need or new bids where possible
- Moderations will continue in the same way through a visit, telephone call or MS Teams Meeting.

These changes will not affect the moderation for the September Interim Panel 2024, which will take place as normal.

SENCO Membership

We are extremely pleased to continue to offer our termly SENCO Networks this year at the same price as last year. These sessions provide key SEND updates, provide opportunities for networking and feature a guest speaker, where possible, based on the themes and topics you have asked to be covered.

Membership to the termly networks is £50 per setting/childminder for the whole academic year and all returned evaluation forms following each Network are entered into a prize draw.

If you/your setting is not already a member, please do consider joining us by emailing eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to request a SENCO Network Registration Form.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The Disability Access Fund is now **£915 per year for eligible children and** from 1st September 2024 the DAF funding can be claimed for children of working parents from the age of 9 months if they are in receipt of DLA and accessing their early years entitlements.

Key Criteria for DAF Applications:

- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- The child is aged 9 months to 4 years and in receipt of Early Years Entitlements provision for disadvantaged 2 year olds, universal 15 hours early years entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds or the early years entitlements for working parents for children from the age of 9+ months
- The child is not attending a reception class in a primary or infant school/academy

Childcare Providers and Schools can find more information and application forms relating to DAF on the Early Years website:

- [Schools and PVI Early Years Settings DAF Application & Guidance \(Updated for September 2024\)](#)
- [School Process Flowchart on claiming DAF \(updated Sept 2024\)](#)
- [DAF Funding and EYPP CPD and resource Ideas booklet June 24](#)
- [Early Years DAF Funding record sheet](#)

If a parent doesn't already claim DLA for their child with SEND, please share this [Contact a Family Leaflet](#) on claiming DLA.

SEND Support

If there is anything that you feel you would like support with, or have any SEND related questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at EYFSEND@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to arrange a visit, Teams meeting or telephone call to suit you, we're here and happy to help!

News from the Department for Education



Department
for Education

Extension of the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

The Department of Education have announced that they are extending the Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs programme until at least March 2025. The programme supports nurseries and childminders by bringing groups together across local areas to share evidence-informed practice and advice and build lasting local networks.

Early Years Resources

The Department for Education have also announced that in September 2024 they will be publishing additional resources for early years educators aimed at supporting children with developmental differences and SEND. These resources are a new free online module that will be added to the DfE's [Early years child development training](#) and the Early Years SEND Assessment guidance and resources will be available on the [Help for Early Years Providers](#) platform.

Safer Sleeping

Sadly, around 6 babies die each year in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire where unsafe sleep arrangements are a factor.

Safer sleep advice is given out to all new parents in pregnancy and the first few days and weeks of a baby's life by universal health services, but to prevent further deaths it is imperative that everyone working with families continues to share information about safe sleep advice.

To address this, the following resources are available on the [Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) webpage:

- The [Safer sleep risk assessment tool \[PDF\]](#) explains what safer sleep is and helps identify risk factors for unsafe sleeping. It also provides information to help you support families and includes links to resources that you can download for parents. To support this there is [Safer sleep risk assessment guidance \[PDF\]](#) and a [pre-recorded webinar](#) on safer sleeping which talks you through this risk assessment tool

Furthermore, there is a [safer sleep poster](#) that can be displayed and shared digitally and also a new animation on [safer co-sleeping by Lullaby Trust on YouTube](#)

Please do take the time to familiarise yourself with this information and share it with the families you support.



The poster features a dark blue background with white stars and a central illustration of a baby in a cot being attended to by two adults. The text is in white and yellow. At the top, it says 'Zoom in (Ctrl+Plus)'. The main title is 'Safer Sleep for babies'. Below that, it states: 'Sadly, around 6 babies die every year in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire where unsafe sleep arrangements are a factor. To prevent further deaths we need everyone working with families in Nottinghamshire to help ensure safe sleep advice is followed.' There are two QR codes, one for parents and caregivers and one for practitioners. The bottom section is yellow and contains the text: 'Safer Sleep is everyone's business'. Logos for Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership are at the bottom.

Safer Sleep for babies

Sadly, around 6 babies die every year in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire where unsafe sleep arrangements are a factor. To prevent further deaths we need everyone working with families in Nottinghamshire to help ensure safe sleep advice is followed.

Information for parents and caregivers

Follow the ABCs of Safer Sleep

Always sleep babies on their **back**... in a **clear** cot or sleep space

www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice

Risk assessment tool for practitioners

A local tool has been developed to support practitioners working with families with babies aged 12 months and under.

Find the tool at nscp.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/resources/for-professionals-and-volunteers/#safer-sleeping

Safer Sleep is everyone's business

Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Spotlight On....

As we start the Autumn Term, we would like to draw your attention to some information that you may find useful.

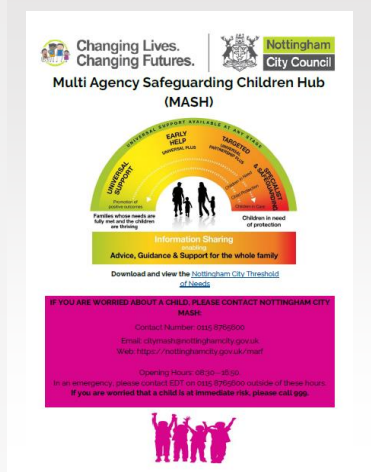
Safeguarding updates

LADO

If you need to make a referral to the Nottingham City LADO, this must be done via an online form that can be located at <https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/lado>. Please note only online referrals will now be accepted.

Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Our colleagues within Children's Services have updated the MASH poster that we know many providers display in your settings. This new poster will replace the previous Children & Families Direct version and can be downloaded from the [Safeguarding pages](#) on the website.



Existing Injuries Pack

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership have created a new Early Years Existing Injuries Pack. This pack will support settings to review their practice, policies and procedures in this area, to ensure that this is addressed as robustly as possible. The pack can be downloaded from the [Safeguarding Pages](#) of the Early Years website. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the information contained in the pack, please contact your EYFS Support Worker in the first instance.

CPD: Network Memberships

We are delighted to be able to continue to run Leadership and Room Leaders Networks in the 2024/25 academic year. These Networks provide key updates and developments as well as invaluable networking opportunities and annual membership costs just £60 for the whole year.

Nottingham City Leadership & Room Leaders Networks Registration/Membership entitles a setting to:

- Unlimited places to attend three online Leadership Networks during academic year 2024-2025
- Unlimited places for our online Annual Room Leaders Network, 0-3's & 3-5's, on Thursday 5th December 2024 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
- FREE Prize draw at every Network Session

To become a member email eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk for a Registration Form.

The Early Years Team News and Contact Information

Welcome to Laura Phipps, our new Early Years Funding Assistant



We would like to welcome Laura who will be joining the Team on 10th September 2024 as the new Early Years Funding Assistant.

Laura will be learning the processes and completing her induction throughout the next few terms, so your patience and understanding whilst she settles is appreciated. She is very much looking forward to getting to know you all and will meet some of you face to face and virtually as she attends some of the Early Years training sessions. Laura's normal working days will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Welcome back to Katie-Leigh

Following the arrival of little Cody back in June 2023, we are pleased to welcome Katie-Leigh, our Workforce Development Support Officer, back following her maternity leave. Katie's normal working days will be Tuesday – Friday and is your key contact for all workforce development queries.

Happy Retirement to Louise Meadows

At the end of June 2024, we wished Louise, our Early Years Workforce Development Manager, all the best for her retirement. Louise worked in the Team for over 15 years and was instrumental in the development of our Early Years Conferences and annual CPD Training Programme. Louise was a key part of our management team, and we shall miss her as a colleague and friend and all her knowledge, expertise and experience in the world of workforce development. We send Louise all our best wishes for next chapter! If there is anything you would ordinarily have contacted Louise about, please email eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Sad news regarding the loss of Julie Barrett

We contacted settings at the beginning of the Summer break to share the sad news that our friend and colleague, Julie had passed away unexpectedly at the end of July. Julie had worked for the City Council for over 25 years, the vast majority of those as a key part of the Workforce Development Team in Early Years. Whether you were making a booking or had a training query, we are sure that you probably liaised with Julie at some point, be it big or small, regarding all things training related. We are sure you will agree that she will be sadly missed and we, as a Team, shall miss her greatly. As we come to terms with this news as a Team, please bear with us and direct any training related queries to eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk and we will get back to you as quickly as we can.

Contact us.....

The Early Years Team,
Nottingham City Council,
Loxley House,
Station Street,
Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Email:

earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Website:

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears

X (formerly Twitter):

[@Earlynottingham](https://twitter.com/Earlynottingham)