



**Nottingham
City Council**



Nottingham City Early Years Newsletter

**Spring Term 2026 Edition
All Sector Issue 27**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring Term 2026 All Sector Newsletter!

This issue provides our regular updates on Workforce Development opportunities for the Spring Term and key dates for your diary. There is also the latest information on funding, SEND, DAF, Safeguarding and our sufficiency plans for 2026. In addition, there are key articles featuring what practitioners need to know about Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life, the relaunch of the Balanced System Pathway, applying to become an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub and information from Nottingham City Libraries and the Families Information Service.

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**



**Nottingham
City Council**

**The Early
Years Team**



Including information on CPD opportunities, dates for your diary, Giving Every Child the Best Start, Sufficiency, Early Years Funding, SENIF & DAF, Speech, Language and Communication, Safeguarding Updates and the final round of Childcare Expansion Funding!

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Workforce Development Autumn Round Up

Autumn was a busy and exciting season! Between September and December 2025, 536 people attended either a training session or a network event. We've wrapped up some brilliant projects, introduced new courses, and continued delivering our essential statutory training.

Autumn 2025 Highlights

Providing the 'Best Start' in Pre-School/F1

In response to Ofsted's *Best Start in Life* recommendations and recent changes to Early Years inspection feedback, we launched training designed to strengthen provision for this unique age group. Delivered through a mix of theory, practical activities, and fun exercises, the sessions encouraged reflection on current challenges and best practices.



With Boys in Mind – Session 3

Greg Bottrill wrapped up the final With Boys In Mind session, with an in-person session held at the Indian Community Centre. He recapped the previous two sessions then introduced new ideas to explore using the Adventure Island model.

"I feel enthused and re-generated. Adventure Island has put the life and joy back into EYFS"

Workforce Development Updates

Since September, we've focused on improving your experience by updating the booking form to make it more accessible, offered free refreshments at all in person events and are currently preparing for 2026/27 so watch this space!

If you do have any ideas for new training, feedback or anything else please email at: EYtraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who attended, shared feedback, and engaged with us over the past few months!

Please see the next couple of pages to see what we are offering in the new term.

Early Years Workforce Development
Excellence in quality, rooted in context, driven by practice.

Brilliant Babies: Training for Under Twos Aligned with the updated EYFS Statutory Framework and the Ofsted Inspection Toolkit

Why it matters:

With early years entitlements beginning at 9 months, the number of babies and infants accessing childcare is increasing rapidly across most City settings. To support this expansion, this 2-part training programme has been designed to increase and improve practitioners' knowledge, explain the new statutory welfare requirements which affect the under 2's and aligns provision with the EYFS framework and revised Ofsted Inspection Toolkit.

What we'll cover:

1. EYFS Statutory Requirements

- Meets statutory framework standards for **learning, development, safeguarding and welfare** from birth to age 2
- Includes updated **safeguarding, nutrition, privacy during intimate care, and safer sleep** guidance

2. EYFS Learning and Development – Under Two's

- Focusing on the three **prime areas for under twos**
- Early **support strategies & interventions**
- Designing an **appropriate curriculum for under-twos**, in line with EYFS educational programmes

3. Ofsted's Revised Inspection Framework

- Integrates the new **Education Inspection Framework** and **early years inspection toolkit**

The key themes at a glance:

- **Child development** in the Prime areas
- **Key milestones** and early interventions
- **Safer sleep and health**
- **Nutrition and welfare** aligned with EYFS updates
- Designing **enriched environments**, nurturing **attachments**
- **Curriculum planning** for under 2's
- Active **partnerships and working with parents**



Course Title	Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Brilliant Babies – Part One	Thursday 29th January 2026	9.15am - 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish	For both sessions - £50 for City Providers & £60 for Out of City Providers – book here
Brilliant Babies – Part Two	Thursday 12th March 2026	9.15am - 12.15pm	To be confirmed	

What's Coming Up In The Spring Term!

Coming up in the Spring Term we have lots more exciting CPD training opportunities available!

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

	Early Years Funding Related Dates
	Training and Network Dates

For full information on all training courses, including timings, venues and cost, please visit

the [CPD pages of the Early Years Website](https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking) and book all courses online at

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

January 2026	
1 st January	Part One – Spring Term Early Years Entitlement Estimate Payment Based on Autumn Term portal claim
5 th January	Headcount Task opens for Spring Term Funding Claim
7 th January	Introduction to Safeguarding Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
13 th January	Childcare Expansion Funding Briefing Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors
15 th January	Childminder Network Suitable for Nottingham City Childminders Only
15 th January	Childcare Expansion Funding Briefing Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors
19 th January	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
20 th January	New to SENCO Suitable for the PVI Sector
21 st January	Open Your Eyes to the EYFS – Part Four Suitable for Schools and PVI Sector
23 rd January	Headcount Task closes for Spring Term Funding Claim <i>Last day to submit claim</i>
26 th January	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
27 th January	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed

28 th January	Provisional Date for Early Years Funding Confirmation Reports Please keep an eye on your emails!
29 th January	Brilliant Babies! Part One Suitable for PVI providers working with under 2's
February 2026	
1 st February	Part Two – Spring Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment <i>Based on Autumn Term portal claim</i>
3 rd February	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Suitable for all sectors
4 th February	Introduction to Safeguarding Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
5 th February	Nottingham City Annual Business Meeting For PVI Owners/Proprietors/Managers of Early Years settings who provide funded places
9 th February	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
10 th February	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
10 th February	Early Years Funding Schools Briefing Suitable for Head Teachers and School Business Managers
11 th February	Building a 'Strong Foundation in Reception' – Part One Suitable for those working with Reception children in schools
12 th February	Safeguarding Refresher Training Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
25 th February	Nottingham City PVI DSL Network Suitable for Nottingham City PVI Practitioners
26 th February	Introduction to SEND Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
March 2026	
3 rd March	Childminder Information Workshop – One For prospective or newly registered childminders or those requiring a refresher
4 th March	Pre-School Agreement Trialling Suitable for PVI Sector and Schools
5 th March	Nottingham City SENCO Network Suitable for the PVI Sector
9 th March	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
10 th March	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
12 th March	Brilliant Babies! Part Two Suitable for PVI providers working with under 2's

15 th March	Spring Term Balance Payment Only paid if estimate has not covered earnings
16 th March	Refresher workshop for providers delivering funded early years entitlement places Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
16 th March	Workshop for providers new to delivering funded early years entitlement places Suitable for the PVI Sector & Childminders
17 th March	Agreement Trialling F2 Suitable for PVI Sector and Schools
18 th March	Leadership Network Annual Membership suitable for Proprietors/Leaders and Managers in the PVI
19 th March	Workshop for schools on claiming the funded early years entitlements Specifically for new School Office/Business Managers to support with the claiming process
24 th March	Childminder Information Workshop – Part Two For prospective or newly registered childminders or those requiring a refresher
25 th March	Building a ‘Strong Foundation in Reception’ – Part Two Suitable for those working with Reception children in schools
31 st March	Deadline to submit Early Years Entitlement Funding Adjustment Form <i>used to inform us of any late starters/early leavers which will be paid/invoiced at the start of summer term.</i>

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 eyfunding@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 please contact eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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CPD Training



CPD Opportunities



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National CPD Opportunities



Nottingham
City Council

Admissions open for **2026**

APPLY NOW



Was your child born between 1st September 2021 & 31st August 2022?

You need to apply for a primary school place before the closing date of 15th January 2026.

Over 98% of applicants that applied on time received their first or second preference.

Dont miss out!



Contact us
0115 8415568



Visit our website
[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/schooladmissions)
/schooladmissions



SCAN ME

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life – GOV.UK

What do Practitioners need to know?

Why This Matters

The Government's new strategy puts early years at the heart of its Plan for Change, aiming for 75% of children to be school-ready by 2028. This is a major opportunity for practitioners to shape children's futures and reduce inequalities.



In Nottingham, our target is to get 72.6% of children to reach a Good Level of Development (GLD) and be school-ready by 2028. This is an increase of 7.5% on our 2024 data, where 65.1% of children achieved their GLD.

Key Priorities for Early Years

1. Better Support for Families

- Best Start Family Hubs in every local authority: integrated spaces for health, education, and parenting support.
- Digital platform linked to NHS App for advice and eligibility checks.
- Stronger health services: improved maternity care, health visiting, vaccinations, and initiatives like supervised toothbrushing in deprived areas.
- Focus on inclusion: dedicated support for families with children with SEND.

2. Accessible, Affordable Childcare

- 30 hours funded childcare for eligible working parents from nine months old – saving families up to £7,500/year.
- Expansion of school-based nurseries (6,000 new places from Sept 2025).
- Increased Early Years Pupil Premium and SEND funding.
- Simplifying entitlements and improving local market oversight.

3. Improving Quality in Early Years and Reception

- £400 million investment in workforce development.
- New professional register and career pathways for early years educators.
- Doubling Stronger Practice Hubs (18 → 36) for evidence-based training.
- Proven programmes like NELI for language and Maths Champions for numeracy.
- Reception year made a national priority with tailored support via English and Maths Hubs.

What This Means for You

- ✓ Professional Development: More funded training routes, including degree apprenticeships and leadership programmes – we will keep you updated through Stay Connected.
- ✓ Inclusive Practice: SEND support embedded in qualifications and training.
- ✓ Collaboration: Stronger links between nurseries, schools, and family hubs to ensure smooth transitions and holistic support.
- ✓ Accountability: Ofsted inspections every 4 years, new report cards, and tailored improvement support.

Find out more about the strategy and explore resources to support your practice at [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#)

Full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2026

The next Full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is due to be published in 2026. Further information on the LA Sufficiency duty can be found [here](#).

The CSA reports on the supply and demand of early years and childcare provision in Nottingham City. The full sufficiency assessment connects with childcare providers, schools, parents, local businesses and the wider community to consult and gather information to better understand the childcare market and to ensure the LA has a clear understanding of any sufficiency gaps which may need addressing.

Work will be underway early in the Spring Term to compile and distribute both the childcare provider/school CSA survey, which will help map the supply of childcare; and a survey for parents, which will map demand.

Your engagement with the Provider Survey will be fundamental to ensure our supply data is accurate.

It is also essential we reach as many parents as possible to obtain their views; therefore, your support to engage with families will be encouraged and very much welcomed.

Please look out for further information coming out to you in the Spring Term 2026, both via direct email and with highlight updates in our Stay Connected with Early Years Fortnightly Bulletin.

Apply to Become an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs help early years settings and childminders adopt evidence-informed improvements, promote system leadership, and build networks for sharing effective practice.

There are currently 18 hubs across England, and in line with the **Best Start in Life** strategy, these are expanding. Applications are invited from group-based and school-based providers with strong leadership and a drive for excellence, as per the information shared previously through our Stay Connected with Early Years Bulletin.

The application deadline is **Friday 16th January 2026**. More details and the application link are [here](#). Application questions? Email EYSPH.applications@education.gov.uk.

Early Years Funding

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) Checks

EYPP checks are undertaken as part of the headcount process where a provider has provided the parent and carer details and submitted their headcount.

When a check comes back as eligible a green 'P' will show in the funding column. However, the 'P' will only appear when the checks have been done whilst the headcount task is still open. Any eligible checks which are completed after headcount closure, will not show on the headcount with a 'P' until the following term, although you will be notified of all EYPP children on your end of term report.

For you to be aware of your EYPP children sooner than the end of term report using the 'P', please aim to submit your claims within the first 2 weeks of headcount so that we have the time to process these and run checks whilst the headcount is still open, meaning that the 'P' will show. This enables you to plan your EYPP spend effectively. Any submissions made after the first 2 weeks may not have an EYPP check done in time for closure and so you will only be notified of these in your end of term report.

A reminder of how EYPP is distributed, as shared in the Autumn Term, can be found at - [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#)

2 Years Olds Eligible for both Working Parent Entitlement and Families Receiving Additional Support (formerly known as Disadvantaged 2 Year Olds)

A reminder that 2-year-olds who are entitled to both entitlements must be recorded on the portal using the additional support hours first and then working parent hours for any hours above 15 (for example, for a full 30-hour claim, 15 must be recorded in both the universal and extended columns).

Eligibility Checking Service Replacement

In Autumn, we informed you that The Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) provided to Local Authorities by DfE to check eligibility for Free School Meals, the 2-year-old Disadvantage offer, Early-Years Pupil Premium, and the Working Families entitlement, is being replaced.

The ECS links directly with the portal and so when providers add working parent codes or details for EYPP, these go directly through to the ECS to check eligibility.

The checks that you run on the portal should look the same, but if you do come across any issues, please do let us know by emailing eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Early Years Business Meeting – PVI Sector

A reminder for PVI Owners/Proprietors/Managers of Early Years Settings who provide funded places to book on to our Annual Early Years Business Meeting. These meetings are running at 3 intervals, online, on **Thursday 5th February 2026** at 10am, 11.30pm or 6pm. You can book your place here: [book your place here.](#)

Early Years Funding Briefing – School Sector

This Annual Funding Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers provides an opportunity to share up to date funding information and a reminder on how to submit accurate portal claims to ensure schools receive accurate funding, including EYPP. There are 2 online sessions available on **Tuesday 10th February 2026** and you can [book your place here.](#)

Spring Term 2026 Headcount Information

Estimate Funding Payments

Providers will have received part 1 of their estimate payments already, as these are made around 1st January 2026. Part 2 will be made on or around 1st February 2026. Please remember that these are based on any children from the Autumn Term headcount that the system believes you will have this term.

Spring Head Count Task - 5th January - 23rd January 2026

Please remember that although your portal return would have been submitted before your February estimate payment, your estimate payment will remain the same amount, as these are based on last term and are signed off in advance of the current term.

Balance Payments

Spring Term Balance Payments will be paid around 15th March 2026 and as per the Provider Agreement, any debt owed will be taken off from any amounts we may owe you this term, i.e. you owe us for a 2-year-old, but we owe you 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 28th January 2026. 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.

All changes will be included in main balance payments on 15th March 2026, 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](#).

Please remember that Adjustment Forms need to be completed and sent by 31st March 2026 to receive payment. Payments will be made within the first few weeks of the Summer Term.

Nottingham City Early Years Schools Forum Sub-Group

This Sub-Group is established to provide a representative view of all early years providers across the city and is the formal body for all Nottingham City Council consultations in relation to early years. The group acts as a forum for dialogue, collaboration and feedback between Early Years providers, the local authority and Schools Forum. Membership comprises of key local authority personnel, as well as representatives from the sector, 1 PVI representative will also attend the main Schools Forum.

You can contact your representatives if there is a particular issue you would like raised at the Sub-Group and you can find out more about the Sub-Group here - [here](#).

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

All local authorities are required to have a SENIF. This fund is intended to support local authorities to work with providers to recognise and support the low-level and emerging needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up their early years entitlements.



With the expansion of the early years entitlements, it is essential to review SENIF to ensure current processes continue to meet the purpose of the fund and identify those younger children who now may be eligible.

Over the past few weeks, the Early Years Team have worked collaboratively with partners and providers to develop and test a new, stand alone, SENIF system which will link to, but be separate from the High-Level Needs (HLN) Funding.

The SENIF will be managed and administrated by the Early Years Team and will have its own application process that will include:

- An online application – that does not require moderation
- More frequent panels that will allow for a clear Graduated Approach to be implemented
- Panel representation from the PVI and School sector
- Clear guidance which will include eligibility criteria, application dates, panel dates and payment schedules
- Three funding levels

A ‘soft launch’ of the new SENIF fund will take place in January 2026 to allow for a reflective transition, further consultation and a review of the new fund before moving to a full launch in Summer 2026.

We are busy updating our website in preparation for the soft launch and we urge you to keep an eye out for further communication from us over the coming weeks and if you have any questions, please drop an email to: EYFSSSEND@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Office for Product Safety and Standards issues Safety Alert to warn about the risks associated with baby sleep pillows

The Safety Alert advises that baby sleep pillows should not be used, as they pose a risk of suffocation and increase the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Babies should always be placed to sleep on a firm, flat mattress, free from pillows, soft bedding or other items.

Baby sleep pillows are sometimes marketed with claims that they can improve sleep or help prevent flat head syndrome; however, there is no evidence that they are safe for use and they can obstruct a baby’s airway or cause overheating. Everyone who cares for children are urged to stop using baby sleep pillows immediately and follow safer sleep advice to reduce the risk of harm. Childcare providers are encouraged to share the safety alert with parents and carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-baby-sleep-pillows-psa8>”

Disability Access Funding (DAF)

Did you know that the Disability Access Fund (DAF) is £938 per year for eligible children?

DAF can be claimed if the child is;

- In receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Accessing any of the early years entitlements
- Not attending a reception class in a primary or infant school/academy

DAF Downloads and Application Forms:

- [Schools and PVI Early Years Settings DAF Application & Guidance \(Updated for April 2025\)](#)
- [School Process Flowchart on claiming DAF \(updated Sept 2024\)](#)
- [DAF Funding and EYPP CPD and resource Ideas booklet April 25](#)
- [Early Years DAF Funding record sheet](#)

You can find out more on the [Early Years Website](#) and if a parent doesn't already claim DLA for their child with SEND, please share this Contact a Family Leaflet on [claiming DLA](#).

Nottingham City Libraries Supporting Families and Early Years Settings

Nottingham City is home to a fantastic network of libraries, including:

- Nottingham Central Library
- Meadows Library
- The Dales Centre Library
- St Ann's Valley Library
- Bulwell Riverside Library
- Clifton Library

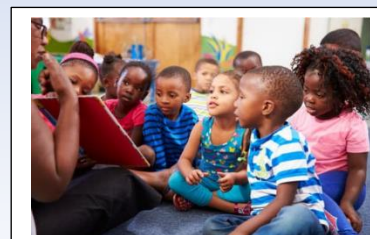


These libraries offer a wide range of activities for families and young children. You can find details of upcoming events here: [Library Events | Ask Lion - Nottingham City Directory](#)

Early Years Groups Welcome

Libraries are a great place for little ones to explore books and enjoy stories. Early years groups are always welcome to visit. Children can spend time in the dedicated children's area, and library staff may even be available to read a story to your group.

This service is free, but please call your local library in advance to book your visit.



Refresh Your Book Collection

Settings can apply for a library card, allowing children to choose books to borrow and take back to nursery. This is a wonderful way to introduce children to new authors, different types of books, and ensure your collection reflects your local community.

Need help finding your nearest library? Use this link: [Find a Library | Nottingham City Libraries](#).

Relaunching the Balanced System Pathway

Back in 2019, a Local Government Association Peer Review highlighted the need for a centralised resource to support speech, language and communication (SLC).

In response, we partnered with Better Communication CIC and developed a local Speech, Language and Communication Pathway through a successful bid to the Early Outcomes Fund, working collaboratively with Leicester and Derby City Councils.



Many of you have found this resource invaluable, but we know some links are now outdated and the original pathway focused only on the 0–5 age range.

We're excited to share that we're updating the pathway and it will now cover children and young people from birth right through to young adulthood!

For those unfamiliar with the pathway:

- The pathway helps navigate local and national provisions to support SLC development, including tailored resources for children and young people with identified needs.
- Users can follow a series of questions to find relevant information, select resources, and create a personalised pathway that can be saved and updated over time.
- It will be available to **parents and professionals across the UK**, with specific links for Nottingham families.

More details will be shared, later in the term, about when the SLC Pathway will be relaunched! This short video provides a taste of what's to come:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DP7hBs_yUwA



Speech and Language Drop ins for parents/carers of children aged 0-4years.

Is your child under 4 years old? Do you want to talk to someone about your child's talking and communication? If so, why not come along to one of our early years drop-in sessions!

 <p>Meadows Family Hub Kirkby Gardens The Meadows Nottingham NG2 2HZ</p>	 <p>Thursday 8th January 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Thursday 5th February 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Thursday 5th March 2026 9.30am to 11.30am</p>	
 <p>Bestwood Family Hub Southglade Access Centre Southglade Road Bestwood Nottingham NG5 5GU</p>	 <p>Thursday 15th January 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Thursday 12th February 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Thursday 12th March 2026 9.30am to 11.30am</p>	
 <p>Broxtowe Family Hub 18 Strelley Road Nottingham NG8 3AP</p>	 <p>Thursday 22nd January 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Thursday 19th February 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Thursday 19th March 2026 9.30am to 11.30am</p>	
 <p>Hyson Green Family Hub The Mary Potter Centre 76 Gregory Boulevard Nottingham NG7 5HY</p>	 <p>Friday 30th January 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Friday 27th February 2026 9.30am to 11.30am Friday 27th March 2026 9.30am to 11.30am</p>	

Just pick a date and come along with your child at any time during the session. We will be there to chat, play and answer any questions and give ideas! Please call 0300 123 3387 (option1) for further information.

An update from our Childcare Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Rochelle Patterson

Since starting in September, I have greatly valued the opportunity to visit PVI providers face-to-face, which has enabled meaningful conversations around key issues like compliance, safer recruitment, and LADO processes. I look forward to engaging with more of you from the Spring Term 2026 through targeted work identified through the LA Provider Support Framework and linked directly to your signed Provider Agreement.

What could this targeted support look like?



Policy Guidance



Audit & Action Planning



LADO/MASH processes – guidance to providers involved in these processes

Working in partnership with others

As well as meeting providers, I have engaged with local authority teams and external agencies to strengthen collaboration with the early years sector. I plan to build on this foundation through continued DSL networking, tailored training initiatives, and joint safeguarding projects that reflect local needs and promote best practice with a view to supporting this sector with safeguarding audits.

DSL Network

Hopefully you joined us on 12th November 2025 for our Autumn Term DSL Network. Based on feedback from the network:

- **Face-to-Face Networking** - DSL networks will now take place in person. This change aims to strengthen collaboration among Early Years DSLs.
- We acknowledge we need to update the register of named DSL's and Deputy DSL's and there will be an opportunity to do this at the next DSL Network on the 25th February 2026. **If you are a setting (day nursery, pre-school/playgroup), it has been agreed, 2 people can attend.**
- Currently any key safeguarding messages for childminders are incorporated into the Childminder Networks. We are, in consultation with childminders, considering whether a specific Childminder DSL Network would be appropriate in the future.
- Certificates will no longer be issued for DSL Network attendance. Please see slide 6 of the [DSL Network presentation](#) for further details.

Slides from this network session and previous sessions can be found [here](#)

Safeguarding Training Update: Strengthening Our Pathway and Prevent Training

To ensure our Safeguarding CPD offer is responsive to emerging needs across all settings, our safeguarding pathway is under review. As part of this, we are introducing several key developments:

- **DSL Refresher Training** - A new refresher course aligned with EYFS statutory requirements is being developed which will help DSL's stay confident and compliant.
- **Annual Prevent Refresher** - Starting in the 2026/27 Workforce Development Plan, Prevent Training will include an additional annual update with local context and intelligence.
- **Expanding our Safeguarding Training offer** - To ensure our training offer fully aligns with Annex C of the EYFS, we are currently working with our Local Safeguarding Partnership to develop our training offer to the sector.

A message from the Families Information Service

Call to Nurseries and Preschools – Please Update Your Information

As part of our ongoing support for childcare providers, we promote your setting details **free of charge** through the Families Information Service telephone line and our website: www.asklion.co.uk

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued new guidance requiring nurseries offering **free childcare entitlements** to publish their charges and costs online. You can find more details in your **Early Years Provider Agreement (page 7)** and in the document [Frequently Asked Questions about charging](#).

We kindly ask you to **check your setting details and update the prices section** to ensure everything is accurate.

To update your information:

1. Visit: https://www.asklion.co.uk/kb5/nottingham/directory/sign_in_alt.page
2. Sign in using your email address. If you've forgotten your password, click **"Forgotten your password?"** to reset it.
3. Once signed in, go to **Manage Your Listings**.
 - Under **Your Directory Record(s)**, select **Actions** → **Update Record**.
 - Complete all relevant sections as fully as possible.
 - If you provide **wraparound childcare**, please ensure this information is also up to date. *(Leave any sections that don't apply to you blank.)*

Why is this important?

Our Families Information Service receives an average of **125 enquiries per month** from parents seeking childcare. We regularly signpost families to your setting, giving you **free advertising** - so keeping your details accurate helps parents find you easily.

If you experience any issues or need assistance, please contact:

 nuno.fernandes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

 **0115 876 4868**

Thank you for helping us keep families informed and supported!



ASKLiON

FINDING YOU **ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT** IN NOTTINGHAM

Brought to you by  **Nottingham City Council**

The Potty-Training Guide

The Potty-Training Guide has been created to help parents, caregivers and early years professionals by offering advice and guidance on how and when to begin potty training.

We encourage all parents and any organisations working with children and families to use this new, Government-backed guide in their work to assist with how and when and how to potty train.

- [View the guide](#)
- [Download the guide](#)

Potty training is an important milestone in a child's development. We understand that all children develop at their own pace, but research shows it's best for a child's bowel and bladder health to stop using nappies, including reusable nappies, pull-ups and training pants, between 18 and 30 months.

It's important that children are out of all nappies well in advance of starting Reception year in school. The only exception should be children with a diagnosed medical need, such as a bladder or bowel condition.

Being out of nappies not only helps children to feel confident, healthy and part of the group, it also means early years staff can spend more time teaching and supporting children's development in other ways.

Contents

- [How do I know when to start?](#)
- [Getting ready](#)
- [Stopping nappies](#)
- [Going nappy free at nap time and night time](#)
- [Where do I go to for help?](#)



Feedback from the Wraparound Conference

Following our joint Wraparound Conference with our County colleagues back in November 2025, we wanted to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU! The event was a success because so many of you were able to join us on the day. Our goal was to offer an enjoyable opportunity to network with colleagues and to hear from inspiring keynote speakers. We hoped you would gain insights from sector experts and leave with ideas that could positively influence your business or practice.

We wanted to create an event specifically for those who work in wraparound childcare, to give you an opportunity to be praised, valued, and appreciated for all the hard work you do supporting families and inclusion and business support were some of the current needs for the sector, so we chose workshops based around this for you to benefit from. With a diverse range of speakers and an energising atmosphere throughout the conference, it certainly felt as though we achieved what we set out to do.



The feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are already reviewing your evaluations to help shape our plans for 2026! You can view the [full Evaluation Report here!](#)

Last Round of Childcare Expansion Funding

Following its launch in Autumn 2024, **the 23rd of January 2026 is the final deadline at present to apply for Childcare Expansion Funding.** Since its launch, this funding opportunity has provided:

- Capital Funding to support the creation of 185 new Early Years Entitlement places for children aged 3 and under in priority wards of the City –
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/early-years-funding/capital-funding/>
- Capital and Revenue Funding to support the creation of 471 new Wraparound places for primary school aged children across the City –
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/out-of-school-clubs-and-activities/wraparound-programme/>

The links above take you to our website where you can find associated guidance notes, criteria and application forms for this final round and if you have any further queries, please email earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or book on to one of our briefing sessions [here](#).

WAC Management Information - Spring Term Data Collection

Providers receiving revenue funding for new wraparound places will be required to complete a Spring Term Management Information submission for the Department for Education. The Spring Term reporting week will be 19th – 23rd January 2026 and providers will have until 30th January 2026 to complete the Management Information Survey.

Further information will be sent directly to funded wraparound providers in mid-January 2026!

SCW Improving Immunisation Uptake Team

Early Years Project

Do you want to know more about vaccinations and the **UK Childhood Immunisations Programme**?

Let our Clinicians lead you on a smooth and supportive immunisation journey.



**2026 Sessions
Still Available!**

Come and join us!



Find out who is eligible for vaccination on the NHS routine childhood UK vaccination schedule, build awareness of potential barriers to vaccination, the benefits and risks of vaccinations, how to book them and where to signpost families for further information.

You only need to attend one of the following online sessions:

- Thursday 22nd January 2026, 10am – 11am
- Tuesday 27th January 2026, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
- Thursday 5th February 2026, 1pm – 2pm

Please book your ticket on

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/nhssouthcentralandwestcsu/1810823>

The Early Years Team News and Contact Information

Appointment of Claire Bale, Director of Education, Nottingham City Council

Following Nick Lee's retirement in September 2025, we are pleased to welcome Claire Bale as our new Director of Education, and we look forward to working together in the future!

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)