



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 4 – 18th December 2024

Read me now – Urgent and important information

New Training Offer - Brilliant Babies!

With the early years entitlements now being offered to babies from 9 months old, there has been an increase in the number of babies accessing childcare provision and it has never been more important to ensure that the environment and curriculum for this unique age and stage is planned, understood and delivered appropriately and effectively. With this in mind, and in response to sector needs, we have developed 'Brilliant Babies', a two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with the under twos. The course will run face to face at Castle Cavendish, 9.30am – 12.30pm on 12th February and 20th March 2025 at a cost of £50 for City Providers and £60 for Out of City Providers. For more information and to book on, please [click here!](#)

Revision to Headcount Opening Date

We have been informed that the Capita system requires an update before sending out the Spring Term headcount and this applies to all Local Authorities. Therefore, the headcount opening date will be moved to **13th January 2025**. The closure date will remain as 24th January as we cannot change this due to timescales. When you receive the headcount, you will notice an additional column which is asking for the total yearly weeks for each child. Please refer to the email sent from the Early Years inbox on 18th December 2024 for details of how to populate this column for your provision.

For any queries, please email earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Childcare Expansion Funding

The next deadline for funding applications to create new wraparound childcare places for primary school aged children or early years entitlement places for children under 3 is **2nd January 2025**. For further information, guidance notes and the current application form, check out the [wraparound programme](#) or [expansion of the early years entitlements](#) pages on the website.

For any queries, please email earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Childminder Start-up Grant Application Deadlines

New childminders wishing to apply for the Childminder Start-Up Grant will need to finalise their Ofsted or CMA registration by 31 March 2025. However, DfE recognises that in some circumstances childminder registration may be delayed due to registration checks taking longer than expected. For this reason, an applicant who submits their registration to Ofsted or a CMA by **3 January 2025** will still be eligible to apply for the grant if completion of their registration is delayed beyond 31 March 2025 for reasons relating to the completion of registration checks. In these cases, DfE will require Ofsted or CMAs to confirm that a registration has been delayed for these reasons. New childminders can find more information about applying for the grant here:

[Apply for a childminder start-up grant - GOV.UK](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- Introduction to Safeguarding Children with Safeguarding Trainer, Karen Shead
 - 8th January 2025, £15, Online, 9.30am – 11.45am, limited spaces remaining - [book here](#)
- Developing Early Number Sense 4-5 years with EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialists, Caroline Vissani and Jane Harding
 - 14th January 2025, £45, at Castle Cavendish, 9.00am – 12.00pm – [book here](#)

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

Upcoming Training

- New to SENCO, with EYFS SEND Workers, Mel Foulston and Sam Caig
 - 20th January 2025, £35, Online, 10.00am – 12.00pm – [book here](#)
- Safer Recruitment with Safeguarding Trainer, Karen Shead
 - 23rd January 2025, £30, at Loxley House, 9.30am – 12.30pm – [book here](#)

Future Communications from the Early Years Team

Please note that our next communication will be our January 2025 Newsletter which will be sent out the week commencing 6th January 2025.

'Stay Connected with Early Years' will resume with Issue 5 on 22nd January 2025.

Opening Hours over the Festive Period

The Early Years Office will be closed on 25th & 26 December 2024 and 1st January 2025 for the Bank Holidays.

From all of the Early Years Team, we wish you all a healthy and happy break over the festive period.



Read when you get a moment – Information you might find interesting

Help shape future early years projects funded by the Education Endowment Foundation

The Education Endowment Foundation has commissioned CooperGibson Research to explore the professional development and support programmes available to the early years sector in England. The research will provide information about the packages of support that setting staff are using to enable them to improve 2–5-year-old children's learning outcomes, and how these programmes relate to key thematic areas that could be included on the EEF's research agenda in future. The EEF are keen to get the best picture of the professional development and support programmes available to the sector, so if you have 10 minutes to complete the following survey before 20th December, it would be much appreciated! [Early years CPD survey.](#)

CSC Reform Practice Survey Now Live!

Working Together to Safeguard Children is the multi-agency statutory guidance that sets out expectations for the system that provides help, support and protection for children and their families, giving practitioners clarity about what is required of them individually and how they need to work in partnership with each other to deliver effective services. In December 2023 this guidance was updated with a focus on the following core themes: improved multi-agency working, a clear child-centred approach in working with children and their families, and decisive and effective multi-agency child protection response. There is now a review of these changes, and your feedback is being sought on the new principles for working with parents and carers, new multi-agency expectations, new national multi-agency child protection standards, and changes to section 17 including clarification that a broader range of practitioners can lead the direct work with children and their families. The aim of the survey is to develop an increased understanding of, and stronger evidence on, how Working Together 2023 is being implemented to inform future reviews of the guidance. If you would like to contribute to the multi-agency response to help inform future policy planning and reviews of guidance, please complete the survey which can be found here: https://dferesearch.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9RBOB09vrvMFEbk

Upcoming Training

- Childminder Network with EYFS Support Workers, Charlotte Griffin and Sue Crighton
 - 30th January 2025, Free, Online, 6.30pm – 8.00pm – [book here](#)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile with EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialists, Caroline Vissani and Jane Harding
 - 4th February 2025, Free, at Castle Cavendish, 9.00am – 12.00pm or 1.00pm - 4.00pm – [book here](#)

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For the latest, and previous, copies of this bulletin, please go to '[Stay Connected with Early Years](#)' on our [Early Years Website](#). You can also follow us on X @Earlynottingham