



Nottingham
City Council

**The Early
Years Team**



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 38 – Wednesday 19th August 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Early Years Funding Consultation

The Department for Education is currently running a consultation to seek views from Local Authorities, Providers and Parent and Carers on proposed changes to the early years funding system. The full consultation and how to submit a response can be found here – <https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/early-years-funding-proposed-changes-to-the-entitl/> We have also provided the [attached summary sheet](#) of the key proposals and questions for your reference. The **consultation closes on 14th September 2026**, with the results due to be published in Autumn 2026.

New CPD Brochure & Network Offer

Remember to check out our [CPD Brochure 2026-27](#), bringing together our full programme of training, networks and professional development opportunities, the **month-by-month calendar**, attached with this bulletin, allows you to see at a glance what's available over the Autumn Term.

Time is counting down on our discounted offer for booking your **Early Years Leadership and SENCO Network Memberships 2026/27. Book both Networks before 30th October 2026 for your discounted rate!**

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

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

Safer Recruitment – Thursday 17th September 2026

We have places remaining on this in-person session at Nottingham Nursery School & Training Centre to provide you with the knowledge to ensure procedures are in place to recruit people who share your commitment to safeguarding children. Find out more and secure your place by [clicking here!](#)

Open Your Eyes to the EYFS

Join us for this 4-part course where Practitioners will explore the key components of the Early Years Foundation Stage, providing them with a deeper understanding of all aspects of the early years statutory framework. We will consider how to develop effective teaching and learning through establishing a deeper understanding of child development, areas of learning, educational programmes, characteristics of teaching and learning, observations, assessments, planning, environment, continuous and enhanced provision and by exploring how these can be used effectively to meet children's needs across the early years. Find out more and secure your place by [clicking here!](#)

Save The Date for the Relaunch of the Balanced System Pathway

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

The Balanced System Pathway supports families, carers, and professionals by connecting them with national guidance and locally relevant community resources to help identify and access the appropriate support for a child or young person's speech, language, and communication development needs. Join us on 6th October for an engaging and interactive session to showcase how the Balanced System Pathway can be effectively used, with practical sessions and real-life case studies demonstrating effective use and impact, providing valuable insights and opportunities to develop your understanding and confidence in applying the Pathway within your practice and supporting children and families. [Book here!](#)

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

Free Sports Sessions for Early Years Settings – Apply Now!

The Early Years Sports Fund is now open for 2026/2027 applications, offering completely free sports sessions to nurseries and pre-schools. This nationwide £1 million initiative has already delivered over 1,100 free sessions across the UK, helping children get fitter, more active, and healthier through fun, high-energy classes delivered by qualified coaches. The sessions are safe, fun and engaging for all children, promote physical activity and healthy habits, are led by qualified and DBS-checked coaches and are at no cost to your setting. Find out more at www.earlyyearssportsfund.co.uk

New Resources to Support Behaviour and Create an Inclusive Environment

In response to many requests of support around challenging behaviour, we have published a [Behaviour Toolkit](#) to support practitioners recognise and respond to challenging behaviours often displayed in settings. The toolkit contains practical strategies for identify why a behaviour may be happening and give strategies for how practitioners can support this but also how they can ensure their own and each other's wellbeing. We have also created an [Inclusive Environment Audit](#) to support settings to review their provision and ensure it promotes an inclusive environment for all children and their families.

Information to share with Parents

Toilet Training Talks Campaign

The [Toilet Training Talks campaign](#) recognises that toilet training can be one of the biggest challenges for families. The campaign provides reassurance, support and practical advice for parents to help their children build confidence and independence. Parents will be directed to the new [NHS Best Start in Life 'Potty Training' webpage](#) that contains practical advice covering everything from recognising when a child needs the toilet to managing clothing, wiping, flushing and washing hands. There is also a short film 'Toilet Training Talks' featuring Reception teacher Georgia Lucas and TV Doctor Dr Emily MacDonagh, which shares expert advice and reassures parents that progress takes patience and every child develops at their own pace.

CBeebies Parenting - Skills for Starting School

CBeebies Parenting supports the government's [Best Start in Life Preparing for School campaign](#), helping families build children's confidence, independence, communication and emotional wellbeing before Reception. The [skills for starting school](#) collection, includes activities to support [children's language and communication skills](#), independence and social and emotional development. Resources cover every day routines and activities such as [packing a bag](#), [getting ready for the day](#), [understanding emotions](#), [sharing with toys](#) and [making a feelings tree](#).

Early years professionals can join free monthly [Champions Training sessions](#), visit the [Professionals section](#) for printable resources, [sign up](#) to the monthly newsletter, or email CBeebiesparenting@bbc.co.uk

Safeguarding information

Department for Education and Ofsted Vodcast on Safer Sleep in Early Years Settings

The Department for Education and Ofsted have recently published a [joint vodcast on safer sleep in early years settings](#). This includes an overview of the updated wording in the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) which comes into effect on 1 September 2026 and a Q&A with Ofsted on what this means for inspections.

Be Prepared for the Updated Ofsted Early Years Inspection Toolkit from 1 September 2026

Ofsted's updated Early Years Inspection Toolkit comes into effect on 1 September 2026, with a stronger focus on safeguarding, children's welfare, inclusion, and safe sleep practices. Make sure your setting is prepared for the new inspection expectations by following [this link](#) for further information.

Be Prepared for EYFS Framework Changes Effective from 1 September 2026

Important updates to the EYFS Statutory Framework take effect in September with a stronger focus on safeguarding and children's welfare. Please refer to the updated [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](#) and review your policies, procedures and staff training to ensure your setting is ready!

Ensure your safeguarding practices are prepared and strengthened by booking onto our training
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/cpd-training/cpd-opportunities/>

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