



## Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 26 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

### Read me now – Urgent and important information

#### Childcare Expansion Funding – Final Round

If you want to apply for capital funding to support the creation of new early years entitlements places for children aged 3 and under in identified priority wards, or capital and revenue funding to support the expansion or creation of wraparound places, before and after school, for primary school aged children, the final deadline for applications is **23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2026**. For further queries, please email [earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

#### Wraparound Providers – Spring Term Management Information Data Collection

If you are a Wraparound Provider receiving revenue funding for new wraparound places you will have received an email last week about the Spring Term Management Information submission for the Department for Education. This week is the reporting week (19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026) and you have until **30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to complete the survey**. Please refer to the email sent on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from the Early Years Expansion inbox for full details.

#### Funded PVI Providers – Early Years Annual Business Meeting

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](#).

#### Early Years Funding Schools Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers

An opportunity to hear up to date funding information ahead of the new financial year, including the new funding rates and a reminder on how to submit accurate portal claims to ensure schools receive accurate funding including EYPP. There are 2 online meeting opportunities on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, 8am and 4pm.

Please click [here](#) for further information and to book [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#)

#### PVI Funded Providers – Early Years Census – Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The Early Years Census is a data collection that collects provider and pupil data, and from January 2026 will take place each academic term (in January, May and October).

The January census date is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and to complete the census you will need to fill in the form using the link below by **30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**:

[https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early\\_Years\\_Census\\_2026](https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Census_2026)

Please remember that you only need to count each staff member once using their highest qualification. If you have any problems filling in the form, then please email [jude.naylor-eade@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jude.naylor-eade@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

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

### New! Special Education Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

The Early Years Team are excited to announce that a 'soft launch' of the new SENIF started this term. A soft launch allows the Team to test out the new system with providers, review and revise, if necessary, before a formal launch in Summer 2026.

SENIF criteria and all associated documentation can be found on the Early years Website [Early Years - Nottingham City Council](#) and if you have any queries relating to SENIF, please contact [eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

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

### Letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson

The Secretary of State for Education, is addressing all educational settings with this message about [New training to help every child and young person thrive](#)

The message shares that:

- For school staff there will be a flexible training programme that will include a focus on developing adaptive teaching strategies, evidence-informed interventions for supporting a range of needs and working effectively with communities and parents.
- For early years practitioners, a new national CPD programme will provide free, accessible training focused on inclusive practice, child development and practical strategies for supporting children with SEND.

## Safeguarding Updates

### Government Consultation: Establishing a National Child Protection Authority

The government is consulting on plans to create a national Child Protection Authority (CPA) to strengthen safeguards against child abuse. More information [can be found here](#). The CPA would provide expert leadership to improve consistency and collaboration across the child protection system. The consultation closes on **5 March 2026**. Share your views to help shape its role and structure [here](#).

### Guidance Coming on Screen Time for Under-Fives

Research from the *Children of the 2020s* study ([COT20s – home learning environment and screen time at age 2: research brief](#)) shows that two-year-olds with the highest screen use (around 5 hours a day) speak significantly fewer words than those with the lowest use (around 44 minutes).

With 98% of toddlers using screens daily, the government will publish practical, non-judgemental advice this April to help families balance screen time with activities that support early learning, such as talking, playing, and reading together. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

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