



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 31 – Wednesday 29th April 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Supporting a Smooth Transition into Reception

Linked to the government’s Best Start in Life agenda, the DfE have published guidance for [Supporting a smooth transition into reception](#). This guidance explores the practical ways early years settings, including childminders, and schools can work together to support children as they prepare to start reception. This guidance also aligns with the [Starting Reception](#) materials created by Kindred².

The guidance highlights the benefits of building strong relationships across settings, and collaborative working with parents, to ensure a consistent and supportive transition where children’s strengths, interest and emerging needs are identified, understood and supported to ensure a smooth transition into school. It acknowledges that when educators in different settings work together as equal partners, it reduces the likelihood of children having to ‘start again’ and supports a more confident, secure transition.

The guidance asks settings to consider; information sharing, transition events, reciprocal visits, partnership working and consistent messaging and advice for parents and carers.

Check out the guidance following [this link](#) for ideas of information sharing and events which could be planned in for the Summer Term to ensure a smooth transition for your children as they prepare to start school.

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

SENIF

The next SENIF deadline dates can be found below. Due to the high numbers of applications being submitted please note the deadline time of 12 noon on the application deadline day. The guidance document has been amended to reflect this change and can be found at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/equality-and-inclusion/early-years-send-fund-disability-access-funding/>

Term	Application Deadline 12 noon	Panel	Payments
Summer 1	Friday 5 th June 2026	Tuesday 9 th June 2026	Friday 12 th June 2026
Autumn 1	Friday 9 th October 2026	Thursday 15 th October 2026	Friday 16 th October 2026
Autumn 2	Friday 4 th December 2026	Thursday 10 th December 2026	Friday 11 th December 2026

Prevent Duty Training

We still have a few spaces left on the Prevent Duty Training on 7th May 2026, from 10am - 11.30am, via Microsoft Teams. [Click here to book your place!](#)

The Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub continue to grow, offering rich opportunities for professional learning through networks, conferences, and new CPD programmes and you can read their [Spring Newsletter](#). As the Hub plans their offer for the next three years, they would welcome your honest feedback on what they have provided so far and what you would like to see in the future. Please see the evaluation link in the above Newsletter. Upcoming highlights from the Hub include the **Stronger Starts Conference**, focused on parental engagement, and the ongoing **SEND Network** supporting inclusive practice across the sector. Fully funded programmes, such as **Maths Champions** and the **EEF Webinar Series**, offer evidence-based training to strengthen practitioner confidence and impact.

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

Help Improve the ‘Check an Early Years Qualification’ Online Service

To help improve the service, the DfE are asking for early years professionals to give feedback on the [‘Check an early years qualification’ online service](#). Please take a few moments to complete the [Survey Link](#).

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The EYPP guidance has now been updated on the [Early Years website](#), offering a wealth of practical information to help settings make the most of EYPP funding and strengthen the quality of provision for eligible children. The updated guidance includes examples, case studies, and insight into how Ofsted considers EYPP as part of inspection activity. Please talk to your Support Worker, if you have a case study that you would like us to add to the website. We are particularly interested in settings that have pooled their EYPP money and from those who have used it to support their babies and toddlers.

Safeguarding Updates

Opportunity to Join Termly Education Safeguarding Subgroup

The Education Subgroup works on behalf of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership to strengthen safeguarding practice and keep children safe across the education sector. We are looking to engage Early Years Leaders who are passionate about safeguarding and want to influence strategic decision-making, share good practice, and drive real improvement across early years, schools, academies, colleges and other education settings.

Attendance will be required at a 3-hour meeting (face to face or online), once a term, with active contribution and occasional involvement in short-term task groups and by joining the Education Subgroup, you will:

- Ensure Early Years voices contribute to safeguarding priorities and strategic decision-making
- Share learning and promote best practice across early years/education sector
- Support education providers to meet safeguarding responsibilities
- Influence safeguarding strategy and priorities across Nottingham City
- Strengthen safeguarding outcomes for children and young people

If you are interested please contact Rochelle.patterson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Safer sleep

The DfE has published new guidance [create and maintain safer sleep environments for babies and young children](#), developed with The Lullaby Trust, to support safer sleep for babies and young children in early years settings. This guidance supports planned updates to the EYFS statutory framework and is expected to come into effect in September 2026. These [frequently asked questions](#) are to help providers prepare.

Healthy Little Minds Briefings for Professionals

Healthy Little Minds supports mums, dads and caregivers to build strong bonds with their baby. Join us for a short MS Teams briefing to learn about the service, how families are supported and how to refer.

Email hlm@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to book one of the sessions below:

- Thursday 30 April 2026, 12.30pm – 1.15pm
- Monday 11 May 2026, 9.30am – 10.15am
- Friday 5 June 2026, 12.30pm – 1.15pm

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