

# Nottingham City Early Years Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the start of New Year! We hope this finds you all well and you enjoy reading our first newsletter of 2025!

This issue provides updates on our new course – Brilliant Babies, as well as other workforce development opportunities, a focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, key dates for your diary, funding information, our Annual Business Meeting, Childcare Expansion Funding, the Childcare Works HUB, SEND updates, news from the Department for Education & more!

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

Inside this Issue!

Key information on local CPD opportunities, including our new course – Brilliant Babies, Childcare Expansion Funding, the Childcare Works HUB, key dates for your diary, SEND Updates, and much more!



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# School Admissions Poster

If you have children in your setting who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 they need to apply for a primary school place by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**, as they will be reaching statutory school age. If you would like to display this information poster for parents within your setting, you can download it <a href="here!">here!</a>



Was your child born between 1st September 2020 & 31st August 2021?

You need to apply for a primary school place before the closing date of 15th January 2025.

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

Dont miss out!









# Workforce Development Update

# New Training Offer - Brilliant Babies!

As the early years' entitlements continue to expand, more babies will be accessing childcare provision and therefore, childcare places for babies 9 month+ will be in higher demand, with more and more babies accessing provision in Nottingham City.

With this in mind, it has never been more important to ensure that the environment and curriculum for this unique age and stage are planned, understood and delivered appropriately and effectively.



Delivered by an EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialist and EYFS Support Worker, 'Brilliant Babies' is our brandnew two-part training programme which aims to support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners who are working with the under twos.

This training will be delivered through a mixture of theory and practical activities which aim to put a spotlight on provision for all of those involved with this unique age group of children and provides an opportunity to reflect on the lifestyles and challenges faced in 2025.

The key themes explored through the sessions include:

- > Child physical and cognitive development
- > Key milestones in each prime area
- > Early support strategies and interventions
- Unique health and safety considerations, including safer sleep guidance
- Effective environments and attachments
- Appropriate curriculums
- Working with parents



Course Title	Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Brilliant Babies –	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 12.30pm	Castle Cavendish	£50 for both parts
Part One	February 2025			of the course for
				City Providers and
Brilliant Babies –	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am – 12.30pm	Castle Cavendish	£60 for Out of
Part Two	2025			City Providers –
				<u>book here</u>

# **Developing Early Number Sense**

Want to develop your understanding of mathematical concepts and how to support young children to develop a firm foundation in early maths? This is the course for you!

Developing Early Number Sense is a course that we are offering for two distinct age cohorts. Developing Early Number Sense 3-4 Years is specifically for practitioners working with pre-school children in schools or the PVI Sector and Developing Early Number Sense 4-5 Years is specifically for practitioners working within Reception Classes.

Both courses will develop practitioner's age-appropriate subject knowledge and give research-based theories and practical ideas of how adults can develop early number sense with Pre-School and Reception age children.

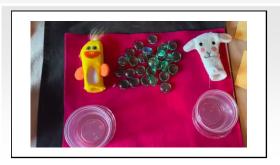


Both courses are designed to complement any schemes which might be used within the setting, aim to develop practitioner understanding of early number acquisition and deepen subject knowledge.



The aims of the course are to develop;

- Practitioner's understanding of Cardinality and Counting, Comparison and Composition
- Understanding of how to create and develop a mathematically engaging environment
- Strategies to support children's reasoning, providing foundations for children to develop more advanced number skills





Course Title	Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Developing Early	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am – 12.00pm	Castle Cavendish	£45 for City
Number Sense	2025			Providers and £55
4 – 5 Years				for Out of City
				Providers – <u>book</u>
				<u>here</u>
Developing Early	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am – 12.15pm	Castle Cavendish	£45 for City
Number Sense	2025			Providers and £55
3–4 Years				for Out of City
				Providers – <u>book</u>
				<u>here</u>

# A Focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

# 2023/24 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Results

Our Early Years data has now been verified and we are pleased to confirm that Nottingham City achieved 63.6% Good Level of Development (GLD). Our progress over time, and in comparison, to national data, can be seen in the table below:

	2022	2023	2024
GLD - Nottingham	60.3	63.2	63.6
GLD - National	65.2	67.2	67.7
Gap	4.9	4.0	4.1

Analysis of the data shows how we are achieving in each area of learning. We had increases in the majority of areas last year, with the most significant increases in Speaking, Writing and The Natural World following our focus on these areas during Agreement Trialling sessions. However, we saw a decline in Self-Regulation, Word Reading and Expressive Arts and Design, all of which will be covered in forthcoming Agreement Trialling sessions.

Details of Agreement Trialling sessions for the Spring Term 2025 are shown below:

	Everyopiya Arta and Dagign	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Castle	9:00pm - 12:00pm
Pre-	Expressive Arts and Design and	4 March 2025	Cavendish	1:00pm - 4:00pm
School	Literacy	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Online via	9:00am - 11:30am
	Literacy	5 March 2025	Teams	1:00pm - 3:30pm
	Communication and	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Castle	9:00pm - 12:00pm
Popontion	Language	25 Maich 2025	Cavendish	1:00pm - 4:00pm
Reception	and	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Online via	9:00am - 11:30am
	Maths	20 MaiCH 2025	Teams	1:00pm - 3:30pm

All Agreement Trialling Sessions are free of charge for Nottingham City Practitioners. For more information and to book, please <u>click here for Pre-School Sessions</u> and <u>click here for Reception F2 Sessions</u>

# 2024/25 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Handbook

The new Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) Handbook has now been published and can be accessed here. This document contains the statutory guidance for the completion of the EYFSP in the Summer Term for those Rising 5s in settings or Reception aged children in schools. The most significant change is that British Sign Language (BSL) is now recognised as a form of communication and that those children using BSL are now able to be awarded the speaking Early Learning Goal (ELG). A summary of all the changes will be sent to settings in early 2025 and this will form the foundation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Training being delivered in February 2025.

Course Title	Date	Time	Venue	Delegate Fee
Early Years	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00am – 12.00pm	Castle Cavendish	Free to
Foundation Stage	2025	Or		Nottingham City
Profile Training		1.00pm – 4.00pm		Practitioners

For more information on the EYFSP Training and to book on, please click here.

# **Training Opportunities from Other Organisations**

# Free, Online Information Sessions for Early Years Professionals from the National Deaf Children's Society

The National Deaf Children's Society are offering free, online information sessions for early years professionals in January and February 2025. The sessions are suitable for anyone who works with children in the early years and will share advice on supporting children who are deaf or have hearing loss.

Join the National Deaf Children's Society's 'Together We Can' series of four online training sessions for early years professionals and each week, you'll explore a different topic designed to help you in your role. The sessions are free and you're welcome to join as many as you like.

#### When?

- Monday 20 January 2025, 3.45pm to 5pm
- Monday 27 January 2025, 3.45pm to 5pm
- Monday 3 February 2025, 3.45pm to 5pm
- Monday 10 February 2025, 3.45pm to 5pm



### Why attend?

- Learn simple ways to support children's language and communication, as well as their social and emotional wellbeing.
- Meet a parent of a deaf child who will share their tips for a positive transition to a childcare or other early years setting.
- Ask questions and explore ways to apply your new skills in your setting.

# How to book

To book your free place, please follow this Eventbrite link - <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/together-we-can-support-deaf-children-tickets-1047888772527?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/together-we-can-support-deaf-children-tickets-1047888772527?aff=oddtdtcreator</a>

# Play and Playwork Training Opportunity

In partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council, we have commissioned the Toy Library to deliver some Play and Playwork Training, focused specifically for Play Workers working in Out of School Clubs.

There is an offer of three courses available and whilst delegates are welcome to book all three sessions, they can also be accessed as individual sessions as required. All courses are free and each course will need to be booked separately.

Course Title	Date	Time	Venue
The Internal Space	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	10:30 – 13:30	Arnold Library
The External Space	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	10:30 – 13:30	Arnold Methodist Church
Games and Activities for All	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	10:30 – 13:30	Arnold Methodist Church

For more information on the content of each course and to book, please click here

# **Key Spring Term Dates for your Diary**

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

Early Years Funding Related Dates
Training and Network Dates
SEND Funding Related Dates

For full information on all training courses, including timings, venues and cost, please visit the CPD pages of the Early Years Website and book all courses online at <a href="https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early Years Course Booking">https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early Years Course Booking</a>

If you've not yet booked your Annual Membership for SENCO and/or Leadership Networks for 2024-25, please email <a href="mailto:eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>

	January 2025		
1 <sup>st</sup> January	Part One – Spring Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment		
Oth :	based on autumn portal claim		
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Introduction to Safeguarding Children		
th .	Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer		
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Headcount task open for spring funding claim		
14 <sup>th</sup> January	SEND Funding – Spring Panel Meeting		
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Developing Early Number Sense 4-5 years		
	Specifically for Practitioners working with 4-5 year olds in Reception		
20 <sup>th</sup> January	New to SENCO		
	Suitable for PVI Sector Practitioners new to the SENCO role		
21st January	Open Your Eyes to the EYFS Training – Part 4		
	Suitable for all sectors		
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Safer Recruitment in the Early Years		
	Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer		
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Headcount task closes for spring term funding claim		
	last day to submit claim		
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session		
	Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed		
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session		
	Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed		
30 <sup>th</sup> January	Childminder Network		
	Suitable for Nottingham City Childminders Only		

February 2025		
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Part Two – Spring Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment	
	based on autumn portal claim	
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	
,	Nottingham City Practitioners, specifically Class Teachers in Schools who are	
	new, or returning, to teach in F2 and practitioners in the PVI sector who have	
	children turning 5 in the Spring or Summer Term.	
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training	
	Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer	
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Confirmation Report Deadline	
(provisional date)	you may also be contacted about double claims	
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Annual Business Meeting	
o rebluary	For PVI Owners/Proprietors/Managers of Early Years settings who provide	
	funded places	
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session	
10 February		
44th Filtre	Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed	
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session	
+h = .	Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed	
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Early Years Funding Schools Briefing	
	Specifically for Head Teachers and Business Managers	
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Brilliant Babies – Part One	
	Focused training for practitioners working with children under 2	
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Childcare Expansion Funding	
	Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors	
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Safeguarding Refresher Training	
	Suitable for the PVI Sector	
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Childcare Expansion Funding	
	Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors	
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Childminder Briefing	
	To support potential childminders with the process to become a Registered	
	Childminder	
26 <sup>th</sup> February	DSL Network	
	Suitable for the PVI Sector	
27 <sup>th</sup> February	SEND Awareness	
·	PVI /Childminders who do not currently have a SENCO Role, but would like to	
	increase their knowledge of SEND	
	March 2025	
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Agreement Trialling Sessions	
	Face to face session, suitable for all sectors	
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre-School Agreement Trialling Sessions	
J Mar off	Online session, suitable for all sectors	
6 <sup>th</sup> March	SENCO Network	
O IVIAICII	Suitable for PVI Sector Group Based Settings	
10 <sup>th</sup> March		
10 IVIAICII	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session	
11th March	Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed	
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session	
	Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed	

13 <sup>th</sup> March	Childminder Information Workshop – Part 1
	For prospective or newly registered Childminders and/or established
	Childminders who may require a refresher
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Balance payment
	only paid if estimate has not covered earnings
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Refresher workshop for providers delivering funded early years entitlement
	places
	Suitable for the PVI Sector
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Workshop for providers new to delivering funded early years entitlement
	places
	Suitable for the PVI Sector
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Leadership Network
	Annual Membership suitable for Proprietors/Leaders and Managers in the P\
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Brilliant Babies – Part Two
	Focused training for practitioners working with children under 2
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Workshop for schools on claiming the funded early years entitlements
	Specifically for new Office/Business Managers to support with the claiming
	process
21st March	SEND Funding – Moderation Deadline for Summer Interim Funding
	Moderation must be completed prior to submission of funding requests.
	Please contact <a href="mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> to book as soon as possible
25 <sup>th</sup> March	F2 Agreement Trialling Sessions
	Face to face session, suitable for all sectors
26 <sup>th</sup> March	F2 Agreement Trialling Sessions
	Online session, suitable for all sectors
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Childminder Information Workshop – Part 1
	For prospective or newly registered Childminders and/or established
	Childminders who may require a refresher
28 <sup>th</sup> March	SEND Funding – Submission Deadline for Summer Interim Panel
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training
	Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last date to send funding adjustment form
	used to inform us of any late starters/early leavers which will be paid/invoice
	at the start of summer term.

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 <a href="mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>

# You can book all these courses online at

https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early Years Course Booking and if you have any questions or would like to enrol for **Network Membership**, please contact <a href="mailto:eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>

For any **SEND Funding related queries**, please check out the Equality and Inclusion Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email <a href="mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>

# **Early Years Funding**

# **Spring 2025 Estimate Funding Payments**

Providers will have received part 1 of their estimate payments already, as they are made around 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, part 2 will be paid around 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. Please remember that these are based on the autumn term headcount.

# Spring Head Count: 13th - 24th January 2025

Please remember that although your portal return will need to be submitted by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025, your Spring Term estimate payments will remain the same amount, as these are based on last term and are signed off in advance of the current term. Please refer to the email sent on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with regard to completing the new additional column which asks for the total yearly weeks for each child.

### **Spring 2025 Balance Funding Payment**

Providers will receive their balance payment around 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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 the actual deadline, but this is provisionally set for 5<sup>th</sup> February. 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. So, if you are providing working parent entitlement funding this should show in the expanded column. If you are providing 30 hours, 15 hours should show in both columns. If you are sharing the 30 hours offer with another provider, ensure that your 15 hours are in either the universal or extended column, depending upon what was agreed when the placement was offered.

All changes will be included in main balance payments on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 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 - <a href="https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/early\_years\_funding">https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/early\_years\_funding</a>, please remember that Adjustment Forms need to be completed and sent by 31st March in order to receive payment for the Spring Term. Depending upon volumes of adjustments, and changes on confirmation reports, we aim to include some adjustments on the main payment schedule where possible, if this is not possible, these will be paid at the start of the following term as per the Provider Agreement.

### **End of Term Reports**

These may be emailed out again as opposed to being available on the portal, please look out for update emails. The reports give a breakdown, and most payment queries can be answered using them. Please remember that not all adjustments will be included in your End of Term Report.

### **New Provider Agreement**

The new Provider Agreement 2025/26 will be issued to providers receiving funding during the Spring Term. This will need to be read, signed and returned by the date specified on the letter in order to continue to receive funding from April 2025. It is likely that this will be sent from the new <a href="mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> email address, so look out for this.

### **New Email Address**

The Early Years Funding Team will now begin using a new email address; <a href="mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>, the existing <a href="mailto:earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">existing earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> will still be in use for non-funding related communications.

# **Annual PVI Business Meeting**

In line with the Provider Agreement, all Providers in receipt of early years' entitlements funding must attend one of the Annual Business Meeting sessions or ensure attendance by a responsible senior representative from their setting(s) who will cascade to their colleagues, as appropriate. The main topic on the agenda is the new funding arrangements and Provider Agreement for the forthcoming financial year.

	10:00am – 11:00am	
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	1:30pm – 2:30pm	Online
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	

https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early Years Course Booking

# Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements & Wraparound Childcare Programme

### **Childcare Expansion Funding**

With the government's transformative reforms to childcare, for working parents being able to access 30 hours of funded provision from the term after their child is 9 months old from September 2025 and the aim of increasing the supply of wraparound childcare in primary schools, Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty to ensure the delivery of these places and the DfE has allocated funding to support this.

£423,900 capital funding has been made available to support the DfE's estimated shortfall of 1,570 places for children under the age of 3 in identified priority wards and £106,820 to support the DfE's estimated shortfall of 1,090 wraparound places. There is also an allocation of £1.5 million Programme Funding to support the revenue elements of the wraparound programme.

Potential applicants are invited to attend a free, online Briefing Session on applying for Childcare Expansion Funding. For more information, please <u>click here.</u>

For more information, application forms and guidance notes, please visit;

- Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements
- Wraparound Childcare Programme

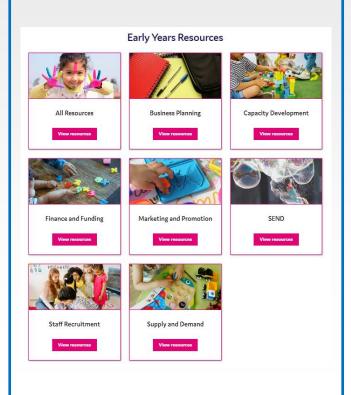
Please direct any queries in relation to this funding to

earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

# Have you checked out the Childcare Works HUB?

The HUB is a free to access, one-stop shop for Early Years or Wraparound Childcare providers, and it now has a new look. The new layout makes it easier for providers to navigate the growing bank of resources, which includes toolkits, case studies, DfE guidance and more!

### Check out the HUB here!



# **SEND Update**

Please see below upcoming key HLN / SEND Funding Dates for 2025 to pop in your diaries....

Deadline for Moderation	<b>Deadline for Submission</b>	<u>Panel Date</u>
12 noon	12 noon	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Friday 21st March 2025	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Summer 1 Interim Panel
12 noon	12 noon	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Summer 2 Interim Panel

Please ensure that you book in advance for Moderation discussions, which must be completed prior to submission of funding requests. Please contact <a href="mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> to book as soon as possible.

These dates and the application guidance can also be found on the early years website at <a href="https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/equality-and-inclusion/early-years-send-fund-disability-access-funding/">https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/equality-and-inclusion/early-years-send-fund-disability-access-funding/</a> Please note applications received after the deadline will not be viewed by the Panel

### **Amendments Forms**

Please remember to complete and return Amendments Forms for any child who has changed their Early Years Entitlement Hours with you, or have left your setting, so we can ensure funding follows the child where required. <a href="https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/rumfu5ox/application-amendments-form-send-funding.docx">https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/rumfu5ox/application-amendments-form-send-funding.docx</a>

# **Disability Access Funding (DAF) Reminder for Schools**

For children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and receiving Early Years Entitlement hours, please remember to add these children on to the School Census in January 2025, once you have seen evidence from the parent of the DWP 'Award Letter'.

### **Spotlight on PICA**

During our November 2024 SENCO Network Meeting, we explored a range of different behaviours that you as providers are seeing in your settings. One of the behaviours discussed was PICA.

### What is PICA?

PICA refers to compulsively eating, or mouthing, non-edible items, such as stones, dirt, metal or, in some cases, faeces.

# Why do children display PICA?

There are many reasons a child may display PICA, including;

- Seeking out sensory input the texture or the taste of the item
- Not understanding which items are edible and inedible
- Relieving anxiety or stress
- Relieving pain or discomfort
- Displaying a symptom of iron deficiency
- A continuing of infant mouthing behaviour, or a later occurrence of the mouthing phase
- Seeking attention
- Not wanting to complete a task or activity
- To avoid social interaction

PICA may also occur as result of medical, dietary or sensory needs.



### What can we do to support?

During the Network Session we discussed many ways practitioners can support children who may be displaying PICA. These included;

- Always seeking medical advice
- Stopping the child from eating the object, or ignore the behaviour, if it is safe to do so
- Offering lots of praise and positive social attention when the child is not eating the objects
- Ensure the child can access their favourite activity or item without needing to eat an inedible item
- Build on the child's communication so they have the skills to gain attention in an appropriate way (e.g. with a symbol or sign)
- Identify early warning signs
- Identify why the child might not want to take part or finish the activity
- If possible, try to end the task/move to a new situation
- Giving the child items which provide the same type of sensory feedback without being harmful Chewy tubes, edible food items, crunchy bread sticks or carrots
- Giving children a wet flannel to chew on
- Increasing the number of structured activities and engagement including food vs non-food (showing the difference)

If you are not yet a member of our SENCO Network, please do consider joining us by emailing <a href="mailto:eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> and for any SEND related queries or support, please contact the Team's EYFS SEND Workers on <a href="mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>

# News from the Department for Education



# 2025-26 Funding Rates

In December 2024, the DfE published the local authority hourly funding rates for the 2025/26 financial year for the early years entitlements. The local authority hourly funding rates are determined using the early years national funding formulae which considers a base rate based on the core costs of childcare provision and then applies measures for the proportion of children living in deprivation, with English as an additional language, SEND and a local area cost adjustment to account for factors like staffing and premises.

These local authority hourly funding rates are a starting point for LA's to set their own local provider hourly rates, using local formulae. The process for determining a local provider hourly rate and what the LA can retain funding for, or has to make provision, for can be found in <a href="Easy Explainer on Early Years Funding Rates">Easy Explainer on Early Years Funding Rates</a>, these rates are to support providers with core costs of providing the early years entitlement hours and as always, we recognise that they are a contribution towards each provider's individual hourly rate and not a full cost recovery amount.

In an increase to last year's pass through rate of 95%, now at least 96% of the funding allocated must be passed on to providers, and we will be undertaking consultation early in 2025 and sharing the local provider hourly rates for 2025/26 at the <u>Annual Business Meeting</u> on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

# Do Something BIG - Work With Small Children Recruitment Campaign

# Be part of something big

Working with small children is a big deal. It's a job that makes a difference by helping to give children the best start in life.



The Department for Education's <u>Do Something BIG</u> recruitment campaign was accelerated again at the end of December 2024 and continues to highlight the huge difference early years educators make to young children and how rewarding working in the sector can be.

On average, the Department has seen over 46,000 visits to the campaign website each week, which directs potential applicants to use DWP's Find a Job vacancy platform to search for early years roles in their area.

Listing your early years vacancies on Find a Job - which is free to use - is a cost-effective way of ensuring they are seen by a large pool of candidates and will help connect more job seekers with the opportunities they're looking for.

If you do not yet have a Find a Job account and have current or upcoming roles in your setting, please watch these <u>video tutorials</u> to help you create an employer account and post your jobs.

Please make sure to include the term 'early years' in your job advert titles and select 'Education and childcare jobs' as the job category. More information can also be found on the <u>Early Years Website</u>.

# Working in early years and childcare

A job in early years and childcare is unique and rewarding. You get to be part of a child's early education and help to shape their future. No matter what the day brings, you'll feel joy in seeing children grow, learn and flourish. And there are lots of different types of roles.



Work in a nursery



Work in a pre-school or nursery school



Work as a childminder



Work in before and after school clubs

### 2024/25 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Handbook

As shared on page 6 of this newsletter, the new EYFSP Handbook was published in November 2024 and can be accessed here.

This document contains the statutory guidance for the completion of the EYFSP in the Summer Term 2025 for those Rising 5s in settings or Reception aged children in schools. A summary of all the changes will be sent to all settings in early 2025 and this will form the foundation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Training being delivered in February 2025.

For more information on our EYFSP Training and to book on, please click here.





# A message from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) - Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during cold weather

Now we have entered the winter season, please see the official UKHSA <u>guidance</u> about looking after children (including early years settings) before and during cold weather.

The Nottingham City Council Health Protection Team are distributing UKHSA weather health alerts and up-to-date guidance, including guidance for early years settings.

If you would like to sign up to this mailing list, please email health.protection@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

# The Early Years Team News and Contact Information

# **New Email Address**

The Early Years Funding Team will begin using a new email address; <a href="mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>, the <a href="mailto:existing">existing earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> will still be in use for non-funding related communications.

# 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