



Nottingham
City Council

The Early
Years Team



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 40 – Wednesday 7th October 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Early Years Census – Deadline Friday 30th October 2026

The Early Years Census is now a termly data collection that collects provider and pupil data in January, May and October. The Autumn Census date was Thursday 1st October 2026, and you should complete the form using [this link](#) by Friday 30th October 2026. If you have any problems filling in the form, please email jude.naylor-eade@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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

Network Memberships 2026/27 – Discounted Offer Closing Soon!

Book your Network Membership for SENCO and Leadership before 30th October and save £20! Each Network programme has been designed in response to needs identified from the sector and all Leadership Networks will be delivered in person to enable vital networking opportunities, and a marketplace will be available to keep you updated with new materials, resources and information. **Over 50% of settings have already signed up, don't miss out! Find out more on joining and booking your place on our Networks [here](#)**

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for October Half Term

The HAF Programme supports children who receive 'targeted' free school meals, offering them access to fun, enriching activities and a free healthy lunch every day during the school holidays. Please note this is not available to children who receive 'universal' or 'expanded' free school meals. If you know of families that would benefit, they can find out more and book a place using [this link](#).

Togetherness Training – 2 Day Foundation Course

Early years and childcare professionals can now book on to the Togetherness 2-Day Foundation Training, a practical, evidence-based course designed for anyone working with children, young people and families. Based on the Solihull Approach, the training supports practitioners to develop their understanding of emotional wellbeing, behaviour and relationships, while providing practical strategies that can be applied in everyday work with families. Courses start in November 2026, but places are limited, please check out the [Training Opportunities from Other Partners on our CPD Page](#) for booking dates, times and locations!

SENCO Network – Tuesday 3rd November 2026

The Autumn SENCO Network takes place on Tuesday 3rd November, 10am – 12pm via MS Teams for our Network Members. The theme for this network will be trauma, with the session designed to support delegates to develop a foundational understanding of relational trauma within the parent-infant relationship and the ways it can impact infant development. We are pleased to welcome back colleagues from Healthy Little Minds.

If you would like to attend, **please return a [Network Membership Form](#)** before [booking a place](#).

Nottingham City PVI DSL Network – Wednesday 11th November 2026

Remember to book your place on the Autumn DSL Network, taking place on Wednesday 11th November, 9.30am – 12.00pm at the Indian Community Centre. This Network is free to attend, [book your place here](#). This session will feature local and national updates, Nottingham City MASH updates, and guest speakers including:

- Louise Cox: Prevent- Notice, Check, Share Update
- Jasmine Nembhard-Francis: Families First Partnership
- Jude Simpson: Ofsted - Safeguarding Lens

Department for Education-funded Early Years SEND CPD programme

In collaboration with Dingley's the DFE has launched their fully funded SEND CPD programme. The courses provide practical knowledge, tools and strategies that educators can apply in everyday practice, helping to build confidence and strengthen support for children with SEND. The programme provides three flexible online courses:

- Foundations of Inclusive Practice
- Embedding Inclusive Practice
- Parent Partnerships

Providers can click the link to [Access the fully funded training](#).

Providing the 'Best Start' in Pre-School/Nursery - 'Relatable, practical, and some easy wins to begin implementing'

Join us for the above 2-part training, taking place on Thursday 15th October and Thursday 12th November. Following the recommendations in the 'Best Start in Life' document produced by OFSTED, and in line with recent changes to the Early Years Inspection feedback, we have developed this two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with the children in pre-school/F1. Find out more and book your place [here!](#)

In Person Safeguarding Children Refresher Training – 19th November 2026

Book your place on the Safeguarding Children Refresher Training, taking place at Nottingham Nursery School. This training has moved face to face to provide participants with greater opportunities for discussion, reflection, networking, and the application of learning to practice. Book your place [here!](#)

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

Funded Places on the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership

Registration is now open for the November 2026 cohort of the national professional qualification in early years leadership (NPQEYL). The programme is designed for current and aspiring early years leaders who want to develop their leadership expertise and potential and is available to managers of PVI nurseries, childminders with leadership responsibilities, headteachers and leaders of school-based and maintained nurseries, alongside other early years foundation stage leaders. Found out more [here!](#)

Safeguarding information

NEW! Designated Safeguarding Lead Training for Childminders

Our new Childminder DSL Training Course has been specifically developed for childminders and is fully aligned with the safeguarding training content specific to the role of DSL as outlined in Annex C of EYFS for childminders. All courses are online via Microsoft Teams and course dates are:

- Friday 16th October 2026, 10am - 11.45am
- Thursday 28th January 2027, 6.15pm - 8pm
- Thursday 27th May 2027, 6.15pm - 8pm

To find out more and book your place, please follow [this link](#).

Safeguarding Children Refresher Course

This interactive session helps practitioners move beyond theory and consider how safeguarding guidance is implemented in real settings, supporting effective decision-making and professional curiosity.

Course information is as follows:

- Thursday 19th November 2026, 9am – 12pm at Nottingham Nursery School
- Thursday 14th January 2027, 6.15pm - 8.15 pm, Online via Microsoft Teams
- Tuesday 2nd February 2027, 9am – 12pm at Nottingham Nursery School

To find out more and book your place, please follow [this link](#).

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