

Welcome

Early Years Business Meeting

5th February 2026
10am, 1.30pm and 6pm
Microsoft Teams



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City Council

Director of Education Claire Bale



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Head of Service, Early Years

Kathryn Bouchlaghem



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The 'Best Start in Life' Strategy (BSiL)



Schools are not responsible for delivering the mission alone. Our plan is to:



Provide better support to families



Improve access early education and childcare



Improve quality in EY settings and schools

Progress measured through the number of children starting in Year 1 ready to learn.

By 2028, government want a record proportion - 75% - of children to reach a good level of development by the end of reception.

[Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/strategies/best-start-in-life)



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Provider Agreement Key Changes

**awaiting publication of Statutory Guidance*

- **Updated rates**
- **Early Years Census moving to three times a year**
- **Transparency**
- **Adjustment forms updated for EYPP claims**
- **Name change from 'Families Receiving Additional Support' to 'Early Learning for 2 Year Olds'**

Early Years Funding 2026/27

	From 1 st April 2026
9 Months – 2 Year Olds (from September 2024)	£11.88 per hour (increase of 69p on April 2025 rate)
Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (previously FRAS)	£9.85 per hour (increase of 90p on April 2025 rate)
Working Parent of 2 Year Old	£8.73 per hour (increase of 63p on April 2025 rate)
3 & 4 Year Old (Universal & Extended Hours)	£6.05 per hour (increase of 53p on April 2025 rate)
Deprivation Supplement	£1.15 per hour (increase of 15p on April 2025) for up to 30 hours per child per week (equivalent) for 3 & 4 year olds attracting EYPP
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) Supplement	£1.15 per hour (increase of 15p on April 2025) , up to 15 hours per child for children across all age groups, accessing the Early Years Entitlements
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	Increased to £975 (increase of £37 on April 2025 rate) per eligible child. Any child claiming DLA.

Funding Example

- Example of a 15 hour place on a 3 & 4 year old base rate;
 - Basic Hourly Rate **without** EYPP or Deprivation Supplement = £3,448.50 p/a (equivalent of £6.05 p/h)
 - Basic Hourly Rate **with** EYPP & Deprivation Supplement = £4,759.50 p/a (equivalent of £8.35 p/h)

Difference of £1,311



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Other LA Comparative Hourly Rates (2025/26)

LA	Under 2's	2 YO FRAS	2 YO Working Parents	3 & 4 YO
Derby City	£11.16	£8.10	£8.10	£5.52
Derbyshire	£10.14	£7.42	£7.75	£5.22
Leicester City	£10.48	£7.57	£7.57	£5.05
Lincolnshire	£7.60	£10.18	£7.41	£5.21
Nottingham City	£11.19	£8.95	£8.10	£5.52
Nottinghamshire	£10.38	£7.78	£7.78	£5.58
Rutland	£9.60	£6.94	£6.94	£5.48
West Northants	£10.57	£7.22	£7.22	£5.05



Early Years Census

- The census collection is a statutory requirement for all PVI providers. The census collects data on numbers of children receiving government funded education, details on attendance, hours, and demographics and is used to determine funding for local authorities.
- The census was an annual collection, taking place each January, but from summer will now take place each term to improve the accuracy of funding allocations. The form should be quite similar each term but our data team will assist if there are any queries.
- Upcoming dates:
 - Summer: 21st May 2026
 - Autumn: 1st October 2026
 - Spring: 21st January 2027



Transparency

- In order for parents to make an informed choice transparency is a key aspect.
- You may want to refresh your admissions criteria to ensure it includes aspects such as;
 - what age groups care is provided for and how and when to apply for a place
 - What additional support you may have in place for Looked After Children (LAC)
 - Making clear what support is available for SEND
- You need to ensure parents understand;
 - which hours/sessions can be taken as free provision
 - what optional extras are available to them and the types of reasonable alternatives they have if they choose not to take up these extras
- Once parent wishes to take up a place, ensure you continue to utilise the Parent Declaration form and your induction meetings, this supports you in agreeing the patterns of attendance for funded hours, agreed charges and capturing those important parts of the child's journey.

A reminder that charges should be published on your website or our local Families Information Service website. A template can be found in your Provider Agreement pack and on our website.



Adjustment Forms

- These are to be used after the confirmation report stage
- These are not included in main balance payments as we allow up until the last day of term to be sent.
- Paid/invoiced within the first month of the following term
- Now includes space for EYPP checks, but EYPP will only be paid if it hasn't already been allocated to a setting in the current term.

Early Years Pupil Premium(EYPP)

- The purpose of EYPP is to improve the educational outcomes of socio-economically disadvantaged children who are eligible for free early years entitlements in an early years setting
- Early years settings should ensure EYPP funding is used to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children by spending on activities, staff training and resources that specifically impact educational outcomes for disadvantaged children. They should plan EYPP spending based on consideration of well-evidenced approaches such as professional development for staff, which may benefit all children while providing the greatest benefit to disadvantaged children.
- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Guide offers step-by-step guidance on how to spend EYPP effectively. We also have some local case studies on our website.
- As you are aware Ofsted will ask for details of which children are eligible for EYPP and how this money was spent.
- EYPP funding is paid to settings where it has been identified that there are eligible children via the EY headcount process.



Invoicing

- A common theme identified in the funding audits
- To support settings to ensure requirements are met, we will be requesting invoices as part of PA return in March
- EY to feedback by May half term and will hold briefings if this is required.
- Invoices will be requested again for those who did not initially meet the requirements

Invoice Example – does not meet requirements

Childcare - February 2026

Isla

W/C 02/02/2026 - £148.50

W/C 09/02/2026 - £148.50

W/C 16/02/2026 - £148.50

W/C 23/02/2026 - £148.50

Total to pay by 7th February - £594

Signed: *AB Charlton*

What is missing?

- No mention of free entitlement hours
- Unclear how the £148.50 has been calculated
- Has the parent opted in to pay for meals, snacks, consumables and activities? Do they know these are optional?
- No provider details - a signature is not sufficient
- Not clear that this is actually an invoice
- No payment information - does the parent know how to pay?



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Invoice – meets requirements



Childcare

Setting address
Setting phone number
Email and/or website

Setting details

INVOICE

Invoice No	123
Invoice Date	01/02/2026
Account Name (parent/carer/child)	Mrs O Jones

Clear invoice details

Childcare for period: February 2026

Item	Description	Total cost
Funded hours	30 hours working parent entitlement for Isla Smith	£0
Additional non-funded hours	60 private hours @ £7 per hour (3 hours per day)	£420
Meals & snacks (if opted in)	20 days of meals & snacks @ £7.50 a day	£150
Consumables (if opted in)	None (you have opted to send in your own nappies & wipes)	£0
Activities (if opted in)	4 x Forest School sessions @ £6	£24
	TOTAL TO PAY	£594

- Clearly break down all fees and charges
- State time period invoice relates to
- Free entitlement hours must be clear
- Parents must be able to opt out of paying for chargeable extras
- It is important to be transparent about what is included

Payment details - please pay your invoice using online banking or tax-free childcare by xx (date). Please enter your invoice number as your reference if you are paying using online banking.

Bank Details:
Bank: Mainland Bank
Bank account name: ABC Childcare
Sort Code: 01-23-45
Account Number: 87654321

Clear payment instructions



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Full Childcare Sufficiency 2026

How and Who

- Analysis across all ages:
 - ✓ Early Years Entitlements
 - ✓ Paid for childcare
 - ✓ School Age Childcare
- Parents voice
- Provider data
- Local businesses and community services
- Local demographics

Why

- Understand if supply meets demand
- Inform expansion programme
- Inform parental engagement
- Identify any pressure points
- Focus on SEND and accessibility
- Understand workforce pressures
- Understand local childcare costs

Participation: Early Years Entitlements

Expansion Planning

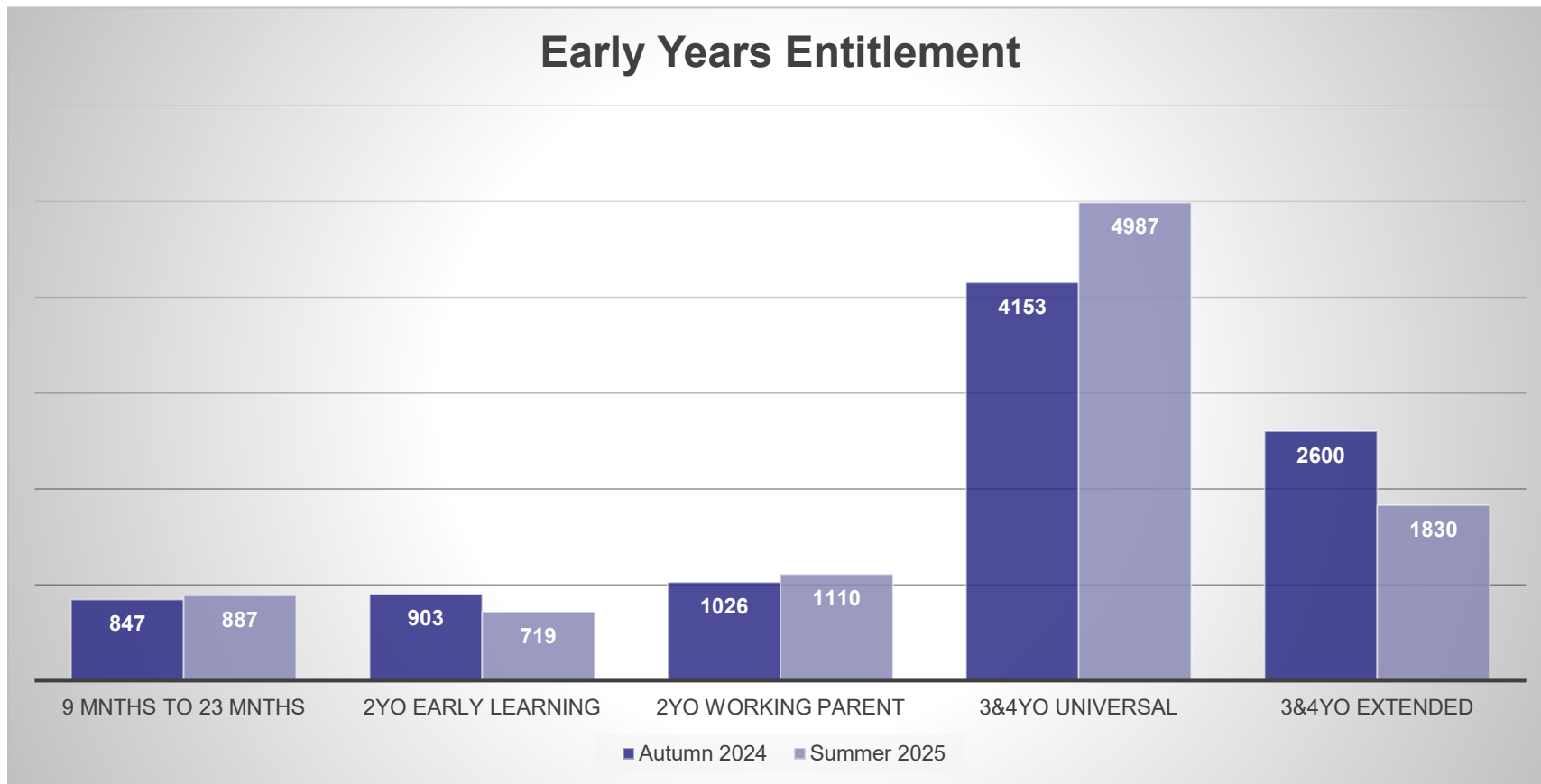
Parental Engagement

‘OUR ASK’
Summer Term 2026 Provider Survey
Summer Term 2026 Parent Consultation



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Participation



Early Years Entitlements – 2YO's

For households meeting the eligibility criteria for both 2-year-old entitlements:

- Children must receive their **first 15 hours funding under the Early Learning for 2-year-olds entitlement**
- Then record the child as taking up to 15 hours of the working parent entitlement. Parents need to reconfirm eligibility every 3 months for the working parent entitlement.

Once the child has met the eligibility criteria for the Early Learning for 2-year-olds entitlement, the child can remain in their place, regardless of whether their family circumstances change, until they become eligible for the universal entitlement for 3- and 4- year-olds

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

What is it?

- Additional funding for supporting low-level and emerging needs of eligible individual children (children in receipt of an early years entitlement place - not Reception)
- Currently administered through the HLN process and panel

What is changing?

- Separate SENIF process and panel which links into HLN
- Online SENIF application form

Where to find out more....

- For more information, eligibility criteria and application information, check out [our website!](#)

Good Financial Management

Crucial for success and sustainability

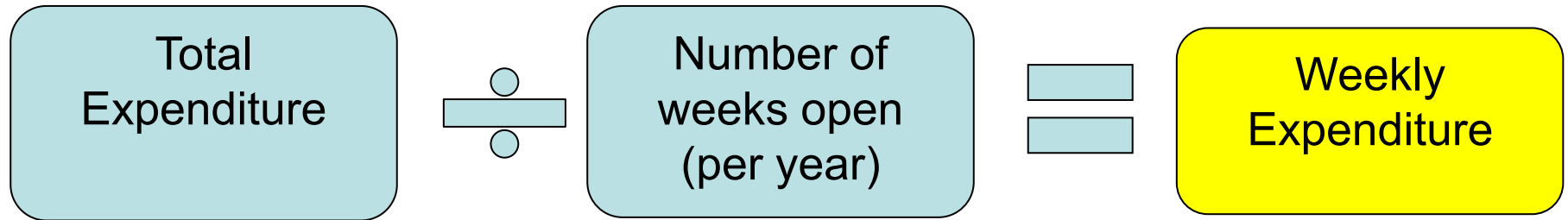
- Don't leave it in a drawer!
- A critical figure is your breakeven point

	Profit	Profit
Costs & Income are the same	Income goes up. Costs stay the same	Income goes up. Costs stay the same

	Loss	Loss
Costs and income are the same	Income goes down. Costs stay the same	Income goes down. Costs stay the same



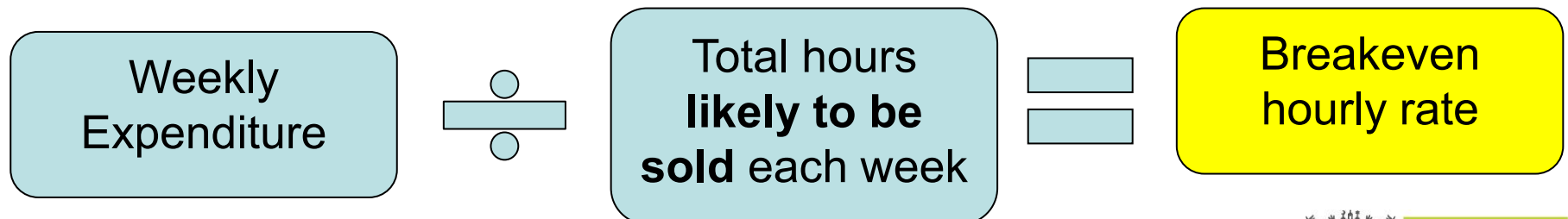
Use your budget to work out what your annual expenditure will be



Calculate the maximum sellable hours available each week



Work out the price you need to charge each hour to break even based on realistic occupancy



18 FTE
50 hours per week

×

£5 per hour

=

£4,500 per week
(breakeven)

19 FTE
50 hours per week

×

£5 per hour

=

£4,750 per week
(£250 surplus per week)

17 FTE
50 hours per week

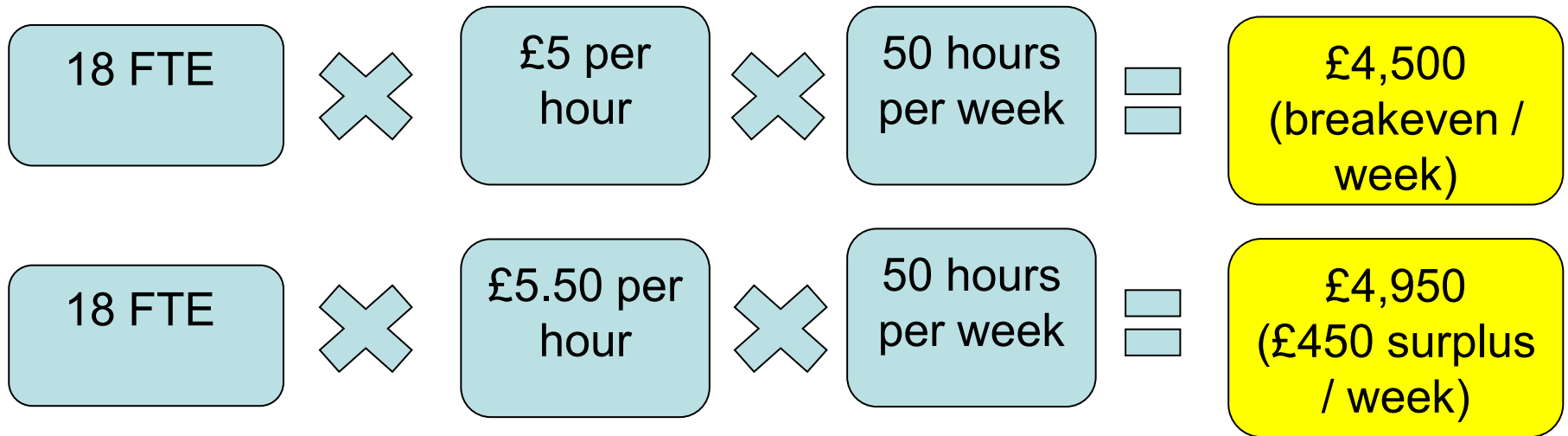
×

£5 per hour

=

£4,250
(£250 loss per week)





Understand your breakeven point, understand your business!



Breakeven Analysis

The Early Years Toolkit

Childcare Works HUB for Providers



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Nottingham City Targets 2027/28 linked to the Best Start in Life target of 75% of children to reach a Good Level of Development by 2028

**GLD
TARGET
72.6%**

**FSM
TARGET
63.8%**



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National Good Level of Data Comparisons (GLD)

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nottm City	60.3%	63.2%	63.6% (+0.4)	65.1 (+1.5)
National	65.2%	67.2%	67.7% (+0.5)	68.3% (+0.6)
Difference	-4.9	-4.0	-4.1	-3.2



Data Summary 2025

Nottingham City compared with National

Area of Learning	Early Learning Goal	National	Nottingham	Difference
	All Primes	75.3	74.2	1.1 (+1.0)
Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding	81.7	81.0	0.7 (+1.3)
	Speaking	82.7	80.6	2.1 (+1.1)
Physical Development	Gross Motor	91.6	91.4	0.2 (+0.5)
	Fine Motor	85.5	84.2	1.3 (+0.8)
Personal Social & Emotional Development	Self-Regulation	84.8	84.4	0.4 (+1.4)
	Managing Self	86.9	87.0	0.1 (+2.3)
	Building Relationships	88.0	87.4	0.6 (+0.9)
	All Specifics	68.2	64.4	3.8 (+0.7)
Literacy	Comprehension	80.4	75.8	4.6 (+0.5)
	Word reading	76.5	70.4	6.1 (+1.0)
	Writing	71.8	67.2	4.6 (+0.4)
Mathematics	Number	79.3	74.7	4.6 (+0.1)
	Number Patterns	78.7	73.4	5.3 (+0.2)



Key Data Messages for our 2024/25 Cohort

Nottingham City Data – Good Level of Development 65.1%

Highest Areas	Lowest Areas
Gross Motor 91.3%	Listening and Attention 80.9%
Building Relationships 87.4%	Speaking 80.5%
Managing Self 87.0%	
	Word reading 70.6%
Creating with Materials 85.3%	Writing 67.3%
Being Imaginative & Expressive 83.6%	Numerical Patterns 73.4%

GLD by Gender

Girls 72.3% achieved GLD

Boys 58.6% achieved GLD



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Upcoming Training

Designated Safeguarding Leads Network

Wednesday 25th February 9:30-12:00 at ICCA

Preschool agreement trialling

Wednesday 4th March 9:00-11:30 online or 13:00-15:30 at ICCA

Focusing on Communication and Language and Maths

Developing Early Number Sense 3-4 Years

Thursday 23rd April 9:15-12:15 Nottingham Nursey School

To Be Two

Pt1 Wednesday 22nd April 9:30-12:30 TBC

Pt2 Wednesday 20th May 9:30-12:30 TBC

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



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Thank you for joining us

earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/>

Annual Business Meeting
Evaluation 2026



Please complete our short
Evaluation Form



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