



Nottingham
City Council

The Early
Years Team



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 39 – Wednesday 23rd September 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Relaunch of the Balanced System Pathway – 6th October 2026 at the National Ice Centre

A free event for all professionals supporting families with young children, this is an opportunity to learn how this bespoke Pathway can support families you work in identifying local and national support and information for children with speech, language and communication needs. The event is already 80% full! Don't miss out, book by [clicking here](#).

Autumn Term Language Lead Opportunity

The Speech and Language Therapy team are recruiting new practitioners to become Language Leads in their setting. This approach is an evidence-informed programme which supports the development of speech, language and communication in the early years, enhancing the current offer of speech, language and communication support within settings and providing a significant opportunity for early intervention for all children. It is based on an interactional pedagogy and the intervention is carried out within typical EYFS provision. Training for all sessions will be held 09:30-12:30 at Bulwell Riverside on Monday 9th November, Monday 23rd November and Monday 7th December.

To get involved, or find out more, please register your interest with amy.burton@nottshc.nhs.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](#)**

RISE Reception Network Returns This Autumn

Reception practitioners are invited to join the RISE Reception Network on **8th October 3.30pm to 4.30pm**. This virtual event will provide updates on the DfE Reception Improvement Offer, opportunities to reflect on Reception Baseline Assessment outcomes, and discussion around effective approaches to supporting children and families as they transition into Reception. Colleagues will also have the chance to share practice, network with peers and hear local updates. [Book](#) your place now. For further information and links to resources that have been shared previously: [Cotgrave Candleby Lane School - RISE Reception Network](#)

Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme (NELI)

NELI are running a webinar on Thursday 15 October to demonstrate how this programme can support language development using the 3 core elements of the NELI programme. NELI can support oracy as it offers: quick and accurate screening, professional development for staff and targeted intervention delivered over 20 weeks. The NELI programme has the strongest evidence base of any oral language programme and with 20.5% of children starting school without the expected speech and language skills they need to thrive, early identification has never been more important. The webinars are open to all schools. If you cannot attend live, please still register ([Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)) as all sessions will be recorded and shared. For further information and to register, visit <https://www.teachneli.org/>

Higher Level Needs Funding (HLN)

The key dates for the HLN panels have been published and can be found [here](#). If you have any questions regarding the HLN process, please contact education.hln@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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

Togetherness - Strengthen Your Skills to Support Children and Families with 2 Free Days of Valuable Training!

Early years and childcare professionals will soon be able to request access 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. The programme is fully funded by Nottingham City Best Start Family Hubs, with 72 places available across six courses, and participants will receive a certificate on completion. Training dates and how to register your interest will be shared soon.

Alongside this training, Nottingham practitioners can also access a free Togetherness Online Learning Platform through a funded licence. The platform offers a range of specialist courses on topics such as trauma, attachment and brain development, helping professionals build their knowledge and skills when supporting children and families. Families can also benefit from a wide range of free online courses and resources covering pregnancy, parenting, child development, behaviour, sleep, relationships and emotional wellbeing. These flexible, self-paced resources provide practical advice and strategies that can be used at home and are a valuable source of support for parents, carers, grandparents and young people.

Please promote these valuable resources to families you work with, considering how they can be integrated into everyday practice to support emotional wellbeing, resilience and positive relationships.

To find out more, please visit <https://togetherness.co.uk/mul/nottingham/>

Department for Education Early Years Qualifications List (EYQL) – New Online Format

The DfE has launched an online version of the Early Years Qualifications List (EYQL) on GOV.UK to help users determine whether a qualification is recognised as ‘full and relevant’ for the purposes of working within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) staff:child ratios in England. Find out more on [our website!](#)

In Person Safeguarding Children Refresher Training – 19th November 2026

Taking place at Nottingham Nursery School, this face-to-face training is now 3 hours in duration to provide participants with greater opportunities for discussion, reflection, networking, and the application of learning to practice. Find out more and book your place [here!](#)

Providing the ‘Best Start’ in Pre-School/Nursery

Join us for this two-part course designed to support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with Pre-School aged children, encouraging reflection of the curriculum, provision and practice. Find out more and secure your place [here!](#)

Open Your Eyes to the EYFS

Practitioners in PVI Setting and Schools; Don't miss this training especially designed to provide you with a whistle-stop tour through the key components of the EYFS, for a deeper understanding of all aspects of the early years statutory framework. Find out more and book your place [here!](#)

Safeguarding information

Information Sharing Duty - Statutory Guidance for Safeguarding Organisations and their Practitioners.

New guidance comes into force on 30th September 2026. Read the full guidance [here!](#)

Healthy Little Minds

Referrals are open for parent-infant relationship support groups running September to December for families with emerging needs, such as parental mental health difficulties, social isolation, or attachment concerns. Current programmes include Baby Massage, Togetherness, Art at the Start and Mellow Parenting.

Referrals can be made via the [Online Referral Form](#).

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