



## Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 7 – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Read me now – Urgent and important information

#### **PVCI Designated Safeguarding Leads Network**

Free to attend for Nottingham City DSLs and overseen by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership, this network features regular guest speakers and provides valuable information to ensure all DSLs are kept up to date with current issues and developments. Attending termly means DSLs need not refresh their Safeguarding training as they will be kept abreast of any developments and current practice. DSLs attending the network are also supported with website resources. **The next network is online, 9.30am - 12.00pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.** [Please click here to book your place.](#)

#### **Could you be our new Workforce Development Support Officer?**

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Early Years Team and support and influence the Continuous Professional Development offer for early years practitioners in Nottingham City. The role involves assisting in the development, promotion, coordination and monitoring of the Early Years CPD Directory and associated training, networking and development opportunities. To find out more and to apply, please [follow this link!](#)

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

#### **Early Years Provider Survey (Childminders, Daycare and Schools): Spring Term 2025**

As the Government's expansion of early years entitlements and wraparound provision progresses, it is essential the LA has access to reliable supply data to ensure the city maintains a sufficient, sustainable and accessible early years and childcare market. The Provider Survey is intended to refresh and expand upon data collected in the spring term 2024. Your valued contribution, through this survey, will ensure our data is current and accurate in order to inform place expansion. The survey will be sent out **week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**. Please keep an eye on your Inbox and Junk email inbox for the survey. Your time and support to ensure we receive a 100% return is very much appreciated.

#### **Early Years Entitlements Funding Rates for 2025/26**

Following the consultation on the funding rates for 2025/26 for the early years entitlements, these rates have now been shared as part of our annual business meetings. For the full presentation and frequently asked questions document from these February meetings, please [click here for PVI Business Meeting](#) information and [click here for the Schools Funding Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers](#) (see 'Information for Schools')

Following on from the Business Meeting, you might want to check out this video: [Making Funding Work: The Use of Government Funding as a Sustainable Business Model](#). Lucy Lewin discusses information and strategies needed to make the most of government funding. The recording explores the different types of funding streams, how to apply for them, and ways to use these funds strategically for long-term sustainability.

#### **DfE Regional Provider Roadshow – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Leicester**

You can now register your interest for the DfE's Early Years East Midlands Provider Roadshow in Leicester on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025. This event is a great opportunity to help shape government's early education and childcare policy, hear about the plan for the Best Start in Life pillar of its Opportunity Mission, and activity underway to meet the expanded childcare entitlements from September 2025. You will have a chance to engage with DfE staff and share your ideas, concerns and challenges. This event is targeted at group-based setting managers who have an interest in influencing early years and childcare policy and delivery. Please [register for the event](#) and email any questions to [ey.stakeholders@education.gov.uk](mailto:ey.stakeholders@education.gov.uk)

### **Request for apprentices to participate in user research sessions**

The DfE are currently working on a project to develop tailored content specifically for early years apprentices, with the aim of keeping apprentices motivated and well-informed throughout their course. As part of this project the DfE are inviting apprentices, or those who have recently completed an early years apprenticeship to take part in a 45 minute, online, user research session. The feedback from these sessions will be used to refine the course content to better meet the needs of early years apprentices. If you would like to participate, please complete [this form](#) by **Friday 28 February** and if selected, the DfE will be in touch to provide more information.

### **Would you like to learn more about....**

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- The behaviours of children with Autism
- The facts about Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy or how sensory impairments affect learning
- How the setting SENCO can be supported

Then why not sign up to our 2 hour, online [SEND Awareness Course](#) running on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025!** This course aims to increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the four areas mentioned above, explores practical strategies and ideas to help practitioners ensure inclusion linked to the SEND Code of Practice and provides an insight into how all practitioners can support parents of children with SEND. You don't need to hold the SENCO role to benefit from this course, everyone is welcome!

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

#### **Childcare Choices Campaign Toolkit**

The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness of the financial support available for childcare costs and the benefits of early education, to help all parents find the support that fits their family, whether it's funded hours to help balance costs, or wraparound childcare to juggle those early morning school drop-offs. The new Childcare Choices partner communications toolkit features a new look and feel with new leaflets, posters, and social graphics, as well as newsletter/blog copy that you can incorporate into your communications. You can download the toolkit in our guidance and resources section on the website: [Guidance and resources | Childcare choices](#)

#### **'How To Love Your Job' - New four-part early years series with Channel 4**

The Do Something Big campaign team is delighted to share second episode of our new four-part series with Channel 4. In this episode, Ryan dives into the world of early years education to see if this could be the fresh, fun start he's been craving. Will it be his new creative calling? Life Coach, Anna Williamson, finds out. You can watch the episode [here](#)

#### **Research Opportunity - Uncovering the Positives and Negatives of Mobile Device Use in Young Children!**

Sheffield Hallam University are launching the [iKids Study](#) to explore how interactive devices like tablets and smartphones affect the health and development of children aged 3 – 4 years and are looking for early years settings to take part in this research. Each participating nursery receives up to £200 as a thank you and you can find out more [here!](#)

#### **Please do not reply to this email.**

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