



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 25 – Wednesday 10th December
2025

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Final Round of Childcare Expansion Funding

The deadline for our current last round of Childcare Expansion Funding is **23rd January 2026**.

The opportunities available are:

- Capital funding in priority areas to develop additional early years entitlements places for under 2's, for further guidance notes and application information, [click here](#) and;
- Capital and revenue funding, across the city to support the development of new or expanding before and after school provision for primary school-aged children as part of the wraparound programme. For further guidance notes and application information, [click here](#).

If you have any queries about either grant, please email earlyyearsexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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

Apply to Become an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs help early years settings and childminders adopt evidence-informed improvements, promote system leadership, and build networks for sharing effective practice. There are currently 18 hubs across England, and in line with the **Best Start in Life** strategy, we are expanding. Applications are invited from group-based and school-based providers with strong leadership and a drive for excellence.

- Apply by **Friday 16th January 2026**.
- More details and the application link are [here](#).
- For application queries, please email EYSPH.applications@education.gov.uk
- Register for the applicant webinar [here](#).

What's Coming Up After Christmas:

After Christmas we have even more exciting CPD Training Opportunities available!

Introduction to Safeguarding (PVCI/CM) - Wednesday 7th January and Wednesday 4th February 2026

This course will give new and trainee practitioners a thorough awareness of safeguarding children as well as the local context, policies and procedures of Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP). [Book here!](#)

Childminder Network (City CM's only) - Thursday 15th January 2026

The Network will be led by the Early Years Teams who will provide Early Years updates and advice alongside invaluable networking opportunities. [Book here!](#)

New to the SENCO Role (PVCI) - Tuesday 20th January 2026

This course will provide practitioners with key points and practical ideas to help them in the SENCO role. [Book here!](#)

Brilliant Babies (PVC/CM) - Part 1 - Thursday 29th January 2026

A two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with the under twos. [Book here!](#)

Building a Strong Foundation in Reception (Schools) - Part 1 - Wednesday 11th February 2026

A two-part training programme to specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with children in Reception. [Book here!](#)

More training opportunities, networks, and workshops are available throughout the Spring Term, for more information [click here](#).

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

Healthy Little Minds

Healthy Little Minds work with Mums, Dads and Carers, living in Nottingham City, who are pregnant or have a child up to the age of 2 years.

The Team aims to:

- Help parents and carers to build strong and nurturing relationships with their baby
- Focus on the emotional and mental health needs of the baby
- Offer early intervention to build on parenting strengths
- Provide a tailored service for individuals to thrive

Professionals can make referrals to the team using the below link

https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/healthy_little_minds_referral

Colleagues from Healthy Little Minds have created several advertising resources for settings to use to support families access the above support. A plasma screen advertisement can be found [here](#) and if you would like posters to display in your setting, please email hlm@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

A message about flu from the UK Health Security Agency to early years practitioners

Annual vaccination of children helps provide protection to each child and reduces the spread of flu to their families and the wider community, protecting others who are at increased risk of becoming seriously ill from flu. The flu vaccine also promotes a healthy working environment in nurseries and childcare settings by reducing the risk of flu being spread to others including staff.

On 1 September 2025, the annual flu vaccination programme for preschool children launched. All children aged 2 and 3 years old (on 31 August before flu vaccination starts in the autumn) are eligible for a free flu vaccination in the form of a quick and painless nasal spray. Some children aged 6 months and older in specific clinical risk groups are also eligible for a vaccine. Those working in the early years sector have an important role to play in raising awareness amongst parents about the annual flu vaccination programme.

There is further information available for practitioners working in early years settings on the nasal flu vaccination and how to prevent the spread of flu in [guidance from UKHSA](#). An information leaflet for parents and carers and a poster for use in settings is [available free to order](#).

Early Years Christmas Opening Hours and Team Communications

Please note that the Early Years Office will be closed on 24th December 2025, 25th December 2025 and 1st January 2026 for the bank holidays over the Christmas period. **The Early Years Team would like to thank you for the support you have given to the children and families of Nottingham City and wish you all the best for the coming year. We hope that you have a restful winter break.**

Our next communication will be our All-Sector Spring Term 2026 Newsletter which will be published the week commencing 5th January 2026 and our fortnightly Stay Connected with Early Years bulletins will resume on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

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