



Nottingham
City Council

The Early
Years Team



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 41 – Wednesday 21st October 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Feedback Required on Children's Transition into Reception

The Early Years SEND Team are seeking feedback from reception teachers', SENCOs and support staff in schools on their views on the processes around children's transition into reception, encouraging them to reflect on children's school readiness. Responses will help inform future Best Start in Life developments.

To share your thoughts, please access [this MS Forms link](#), which should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Agreement Trialling for Colleagues in Pre-School

This term focuses on the DfE priority around Formative Assessment as well as exploring Physical Development links to Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning. These discussions will support ongoing judgements and identification of next steps for children within pre-school. We will also be offering SEND support during these discussions. Book one of the few remaining spaces [here!](#)

Pre-School	Formative Assessment, Physical Development and Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning	Wed 4 th November 2026	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30	SPACES REMAINING NOW FULL
		Wed 4 th November 2026	In person at the Indian Community Centre Association, NG5 1QZ	13:00-16:00	Limited SPACES REMAINING

Autumn Term Language Lead Opportunity

The Speech and Language Therapy Team are recruiting new practitioners who wish to become a Language Lead in their setting. The Language Lead approach is an evidence-informed programme which supports the development of speech, language and communication in the early years. This approach enhances the current offer of support within settings and provides 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 9.30am - 12:30pm at Bulwell Riverside on the following dates:

Monday 9th November 2026

Monday 23rd November 2026

Monday 7th December 2026

If you want to become involved in the Language Lead Training opportunity, or would like further information, please contact amy.burton@nottshc.nhs.uk

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

Nottingham City Leadership Network - Wednesday 25th November 2026

Submit your membership and book your place on the Leadership Network! This Network we are welcoming Amy Burton and Sarah Baker from the SaLT team to discuss supporting language development for children with English as an Additional Language. There will be opportunities to explore market stalls from partners, network with peers, as well as to hear local and national updates. [Submit your membership](#) and [book your place here!](#) **Don't forget our discounted SENCO & Leadership Network offer closes on 30th October 2026!**

Positive Children, Positive Behaviour - Inspired Children - Thursday 5th November 2026

We are delighted to welcome Ben Kingston-Hughes, author and multi award-winning trainer, to deliver this course on why traditional behaviour methods do not work with young children, giving a firm grounding in the neuroscience of behaviour to better understand even the most unusual of behaviour patterns. The course also details how children “learn” behaviour in the first place and explores how our adult behaviour directly impacts on the behaviour of our young children. Find out more information and book your place [here!](#)

School Holiday Activities – Check out Your Notts Directory!

Your Notts Directory website has a dedicated [School Holiday Activities](#) page designed to help parents, carers and young people easily find activities taking place during the October Half Term holiday period, including; Holiday clubs and activity camps, sports, arts and creative activities, family-friendly events and attractions, community and youth activities and free and low-cost activities for families. Please share this link and information with families in your settings.

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

Ofsted Inspection Framework: Early Findings

Independent research into Ofsted’s renewed Education Inspection Framework (EIF), introduced in 2025, shows that providers are generally positive about the changes. Early Years Settings have responded particularly well, with many reporting that inspections feel more collaborative and better reflect the context in which they operate. The new report card and grading approach have been welcomed for being clearer and easier to understand. However, workload and wellbeing concerns linked to inspections remain a challenge, especially for schools. Overall, the findings suggest the renewed framework is helping to improve the inspection experience, while providing greater transparency for providers and families.

You can view the published report [here](#).

Safeguarding information

New Information Sharing Duty for Early Years Providers

This new statutory information sharing duty came into force on Wednesday 30 September 2026. It applies to early years settings and strengthens information sharing between organisations to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The duty requires relevant information about a child, or others connected to them, to be shared where it may help another relevant organisation assess needs, make decisions, provide support or take action. This supports prevention and early help, enabling practitioners to identify emerging needs and coordinate support before concerns escalate. Information sharing is not limited to where a child is at immediate risk of harm or meets a statutory child protection threshold. Consent is not required when sharing information under the duty. Information must still be shared in line with data protection requirements.

Early years providers must follow the [information sharing duty statutory guidance](#), and it should be read alongside the EYFS statutory framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

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.

[Click here](#) for more information and to book any of our upcoming courses below:

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 19 th November 2026	9.00am – 12.00pm	Nottingham Nursery School
Thursday 14 th January 2027	6.15pm – 8.15pm	Online via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday 2 nd February 2027	9.00am – 12.00pm	Nottingham Nursery School

Nottingham City PVI DSL Network – Wednesday 11th November 2026

Remember to book your place on the Autumn Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Network, taking place on Wednesday 11th November 2026, 9.30am – 12.00pm at the Indian Community Centre. This Network is free to attend for up to 2 DSL’s per setting and you can [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) and Jude Simpson (Ofsted - Safeguarding Lens). We hope you can join us!

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