



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 27 – Wednesday 4th February 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Early Years Entitlements Funding Rates 2026/27

We look forward to welcoming our **PVI Providers to our Annual Business Meeting** sessions tomorrow where we will be sharing, amongst other things, the hourly rates for the 2026/27 financial year for the early years entitlements. The presentation and a Frequently Asked Questions document will be shared after this meeting, please also keep a look out for the **Provider Agreement 2026/27**, which will be shared in the coming weeks.

For schools, our annual **Schools Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers** responsible for submitting the termly headcount on the Early Years Portal will take place on **Tuesday 10th February 2026**. We will also cover the hourly rates for the 2026/27 financial year for the early years entitlements at this meeting and schools can [book their place here](#).

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

DSL Network - Wednesday 25th February 2026

Remember to book your place on the Nottingham City PVI DSL Network, taking place face to face at the Indian Community Centre. The DSL Network is free to attend for Nottingham City DSLs and is overseen by the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership (NCSCP). This network provides valuable information to ensure all DSLs are kept up to date with current issues and developments. Book your place [here](#), we look forward to seeing you there!

Early Years Inspections

In this blog post published by Lee Owston, National Director, Education, Lee addresses some of the questions that have been asked repeatedly during their online and face-to-face engagement with early years settings since the [published the renewed inspection framework](#).

See the link to read some of the FAQ; [Early years inspections: frequently asked questions](#)

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

The DfE want your views on delivering the early years entitlements to parents

DfE are conducting research to gather feedback on early years professional's experience of delivering the working parent entitlements, universal hours for 3- & 4-year-olds and the 2-year-old entitlement for families receiving additional support. This is particularly for those who process finances in relation to the entitlements and support parents with understanding the entitlements and will cover the entitlements you deliver, who is involved, what systems you use, etc. The session will include a one-off discussion with a researcher (online primarily, but with options for a face-to-face meeting or phone call), lasting 60 minutes and taking place between 2nd-18th February 2026. There is a £40 incentive payment for taking part. For any questions, please contact gabrielle.mitchem-evans@education.gov.uk or [sign up to share your experiences](#).

Safeguarding Updates

Online Safety Week – 9th – 13th February 2026

From 9th to 13th February 2026, to coincide with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th February, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's Prevent Team, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Boards and Safeguarding Children Partnerships will be holding a series of events to raise awareness of a range of online harms.

[This Communications Pack](#) contains links to a range of webinars running throughout the week and resources for you to access, as well as information and messages to share designed to prevent online harm.

Neglect Toolkit

It is key to remember that where neglect of a child has been raised as a concern ALL agencies MUST complete the Neglect Toolkit, which can be found by clicking on the following link: [neglect-toolkit.pdf](#)

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