



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 21 – 15th October 2025

Read me now – Urgent and important information

SEND Funding Key Information

If you have children who are in receipt of SEND funding and require a re-bid to the January 2026 Panel, or have any new children you wish to apply for, please note that Moderation Week is 10th - 14th November 2025 – Please contact EYFSEND@nottinghamcity.gov.uk in advance to arrange Moderation. This will be followed by the submission deadline at 12 noon on Friday 21st November 2025. Full application and guidance information can be found [here](#).

Using the Experience-Based Route

The DfE have published [information about using the experience-based route in your early years setting](#). This route allows for suitable and experienced staff, who do not hold full and relevant qualifications, to be included in the staff:child ratios at level 3 following a period of supervised practice. For more guidance on supporting children in the early years, visit the [Help for early years providers website](#). You can also [contact DfE online](#) for more information about the experience-based route, marking your request for the attention of the Early Years Qualification Unit.

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

Help Shape the Future of EYPP

The Education Endowment Foundation is inviting early years settings to complete a short, anonymous survey on the Early Years Pupil Premium. It takes around 10 minutes, and participants can opt into a follow-up interview with a £50 thank you. The **deadline is 24th October 2025** and you can take part at [IFF Research](#).

For more information contact: EYPPDecisionsSurvey@IFFresearch.co.uk

Join The Early Years Stronger Practice Hub for the Early Years Curriculum Conference 2025!

Friday 28th November 2025, 9:00am – 4:00pm at Eastwood Hall, Nottingham

This inspiring day will explore how to nurture confident, capable writers through evidence-informed practice. Aimed at professionals working with children aged 3–5, the conference will cover key topics including the 2025 Writing Framework, physical development, Phase 1 phonics, transcription and composition, and practical strategies to support early mark-making and storytelling.

Led by Early Years Expert Helen Battelley, this event promises to challenge assumptions and strengthen everyday practice. Book now at [Nottinghamshire LA Conference - Booking Form - Early Years Curriculum Conference](#)

Wraparound Provider Conference

Our joint conference with Nottinghamshire County Council, which is specifically for wraparound providers, is to be held on Saturday 15th November 2025 at East Midlands Conference Centre. Due to a brilliant response for bookings, we will now be **closing bookings for this event at the end of October 2025**, so if you would like to attend, please ensure you have [booked your place](#) before the end of the month!

Improving Immunisation Uptake Team offers training to Early Years Settings

This free training has been developed on behalf of NHS England, with sessions available to book across six different dates and times to offer maximum flexibility for attendance. The 1-hour sessions will be virtual via MS Teams, and individuals will only need to attend one of session. The training session is aimed specifically at Early Years providers and will highlight the importance of routine childhood immunisations and the significant role Early Years providers play in supporting the UK's routine vaccination programme.

For more information, please see the [Partner Resources](#) section of our CPD pages.

What's Coming Up After Half Term:

The **Autumn Term Leadership & SENCO Networks** will be taking place after the half term, welcoming guest speakers such as colleagues from Healthy Little Minds at the SENCO Network, and the CIC Oral Health Improvement Team at the Leadership Network. There is still time to join us! Return [this form](#) by the 31st October to get your discounted joint membership. After returning your membership, **book onto the Networks** [here](#).

Our **Agreement Trialling** sessions will be taking place in November, helping practitioners to form accurate judgments, which will ensure confident assessments and give confidence to identify next steps. For more information click here [\(Pre-School\)](#) or here [\(F2\)](#)

On November 14th our final **Safeguarding Children Refresher** session for 2025 will be taking place, we have few places remaining, so book now by clicking [here](#)!

In December we will be hosting our **Funding Workshops**, to assist new and experienced practitioners with providing funded places. For more information click here [\(New\)](#) or here [\(Refresher\)](#).

Reminder to Book onto SENCO & Leadership Networks:

For those Settings who have returned a Membership form for the SENCO & Leadership Networks, please be reminded that you must also book onto the individual Network sessions [here](#).

Settings will not receive a link for the session without submitting a booking form.

October Half Term – Free Fun and Food



The poster features a blue and orange design. At the top, it says 'October Half-Term Holiday Scheme Places for Free'. Below this, a photo shows two children wearing helmets and riding bicycles. A purple banner across the middle reads 'FREE FUN AND FOOD'. To the right of the banner, there are two circular inset photos: one of children playing in a park and another of children sitting at a table. Text on the poster includes: 'Would your child like to attend a fully funded holiday scheme during October half-term where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are all included?' and 'Children in receipt of, or eligible for, Free School Meals can attend up to 4 free holiday activity clubs in the October half-term holiday!'. At the bottom left, it provides the email 'freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk' and a QR code. At the bottom right, it says 'Further information: asklon.co.uk/funandfood or scan the QR Code' and 'Questions: freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk' with another QR code. The Nottingham City Council logo is at the bottom right.

FREE Fun & Food is Back!

Over October Half Term children in receipt of, or eligible for, Free School Meals can attend up to 4 free holiday activity clubs that are running across the City. Fun experiences, exciting activities, a tasty lunch and snacks are all included.

Email freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk with any questions or scan this QR code for more information.



You can also [download a copy of this poster](#) to display in your settings and share with your parents.

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

Childcare Works

Looking to strengthen your recruitment and retention strategies? Childcare Works has published a practical guide packed with advice for early years providers. This resource explores new staffing flexibilities, digital tools like the qualification checker, and the governments “Do Something Big” campaign to help attract new talent. It also features insights from sector specialists and real-life case studies, including flexible working approaches from the Timewise Childcare Pioneers project. Please find it by clicking [here](#).

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