



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**The Early**  
**Years Team**



## Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 35 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### Read me now – Urgent and important information

#### Screen Use by Children aged 5-16 Years

The DfE are asking schools to complete a call for evidence on screen time for children aged 5-16. This call for evidence seeks robust and clearly presented evidence to inform the development of new parental guidance resources on screen use for children and young people. It will also inform future policy thinking on the use of screens in schools. The DfE are particularly interested in gathering information from schools about a broad range of digital experiences accessed by children to enable them to:

- Better understand how children use screens
- Identify both the benefits and risks of screen use
- Understand how impacts vary by age, developmental stage, and context
- Support real-world decision-making by parents and young people, and identify what works in practice to support positive outcomes
- Understand how families manage and support screen use.

To contribute to this call for evidence, follow this link: [Screen use by children aged 5-16: call for evidence - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#) before Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

#### UKHSA - Red Heat Health Alert for the East Midlands

UKHAS have issued a Red Heat Health Alert for the East Midlands from 1am on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 until 11pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

Severe impacts are expected across health and social care services due to the high temperatures, including significantly increased demand on all health and social care services, the heat affecting the ability of the workforce to deliver services and hot indoor environments making provision of care challenging.

Vulnerable people who are at greater risk of heat harms include those under the age of 5. The UKHSA sector-specific guidance can for those looking after children and those in early years settings (teachers and other educational professionals) should refer to this [guidance](#).

While exposure to hot weather can affect anyone, some people are particularly at risk. Please see the UKHSA's published [guidance on staying safe during hot weather](#).

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

#### Early Years Leadership and SENCO Networks

Bookings are now open for the 2026/27 Early Years Leadership and SENCO Networks sign-ups. Each network includes three sessions, with expert insight and great opportunities to connect with colleagues. Each network costs £50, or, if **sign up to both by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026**, you get a discounted price of £80.

Full details and the sign-up form can be accessed via this [link](#). Send your form to [EYtraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:EYtraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) and we hope to see you there!

### **Inclusive Early Years Fund (IEYF)**

As part of the Inclusive Mainstream Fund announced in February 2026, the Inclusive Early Years Fund (IEYF) will support the early years sector to become more inclusive of children with SEND and the LAs allocation will be passported 100% out to the sector.

Allocations can be made to providers delivering the free early years entitlements and will be based on the numbers of 3- & 4-year-old part time equivalent children accessing their universal hours on the January 2026 census and using deprivation as a proxy measure for SEND.

To be payable, a provider's allocation must reach a £1,000 minimum threshold. There is no application process, and eligible providers will be notified in August 2026, with a one-off lump sum payment made by the end of September 2026. Further information on can be found [here](#).

### **SENIF and HLN Funding**

A polite reminder to all settings who have children who are in receipt of SENIF or HLN funding who are leaving at the end of the Summer Term, please ensure you let us know!

For SENIF allocations please complete the form using the following link [SENIF Amendments form – Fill in form](#).

For HLN allocations please email [education.hln@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:education.hln@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### **SENCO Audit**

The SENCO Audit has been sent to all daycare group settings. Please complete and return this audit by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026. You can also access it here - [SENCO Audit Questionnaire 26 – Fill in form](#)

### **Early Years Education Inspection Framework Update**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, Ofsted published updates to the education inspection materials under the renewed education inspection framework (EIF) for early years inspections. The documents and a summary of the changes can be found here [Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](#). These updates apply to inspections from September 2026. Until then, the existing materials are still place.

## **Safeguarding information**

### **Family Help Strategy**

The Family Help Strategy supports Nottingham City's vision of giving every child the best start in life. By providing earlier, more accessible and coordinated support, it aims to ensure families receive the right help at the right time.

Through strong partnerships across education, health, social care and community organisations, the strategy promotes early intervention, prevents issues from escalating and delivers inclusive, tailored support. Together, we can create positive, lasting outcomes for children, young people and families across Nottingham City.

**For more information click on the following [Family Help Strategy 2026-2029](#)**

### **Team Around the Family (TAF) Lunchtime Learning**

Team Around the Family (TAF) are offering a 30-minute lunchtime session for professionals to learn more about the TAF process. This is an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, and explore how we can work together more effectively to support families.

For more information click on the following link [TAF Lunch and Learn workshop](#).

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

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