



Summer 2025  
All Sector Issue 24

2025  
Summer  
Term Edition

# Nottingham City Early Years Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Summer Term All Sector Newsletter! As we find ourselves in the final term of the current academic year, we still have lots of information and opportunities to share with you, as well as some forward planning for Autumn Term 2025!

This issue provides updates on our new course – To Be Two, as well as other workforce development opportunities, including an update on our Blended Paediatric First Training, SEND and Early Years Funding updates, information on the Childcare Expansion Funding, Childcare Works Toolkits, marketing materials and some key dates for our providers of wraparound childcare for primary school aged children, news from the Department for Education & more!

Please remember, we continue to value your honest feedback, which you can share by emailing your comments to [earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Best wishes,  
The Early Years Team



**Inside this  
Issue!**

*Key information on CPD opportunities, including our new course – To Be Two, Childcare Expansion Funding, Childcare Works Toolkits, key dates for your diary, SEND and Early Years Funding Updates, and much more!*



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## ***Workforce Development Update***

The Early Years Team are in the stages of finalising the Continuous Professional Development Plan for Nottingham City's early years workforce for the 2025/2026 academic year, which will be launched for September 2025. We continue with our statutory and core training, have revamped some existing courses and have new courses available that we hope you'll take advantage of attending. We have maintained our pricing structure for courses for 2025/26 and all courses will be promoted through our 'Stay Connected with Early Years' bulletin, termly newsletter and on the [Training Pages](#) of our website.

### **Changes to the administration of our Blended Paediatric First Aid Training**

Currently all bookings for the above course are managed by the Early Years Team but many of the questions we receive from delegates are around access to the e-learning modules. From April 2025, the administration of this course will be managed by our colleagues in the Development and Change Team, with the aim of accessing this blended training being a smoother journey for delegates. If you already have a course booked, your place will have been reserved but over the next couple of weeks the website will be updated to include new step-by-step joining instructions for delegates and a frequently asked questions document. Progress on this transition will be shared via our Stay Connected with Early Years Bulletins, but please also keep an eye on the [PFA course page](#)

## ***To Be Two***

As the early years' entitlements continue to expand, more 2-year-olds are accessing childcare provision and demand for childcare places for 2-year-olds is expected to continue to rise. With this in mind, it has never been more important to ensure that the environment and curriculum for this unique age and stage is planned, understood and delivered appropriately and effectively.

'To Be Two' is a two-part training programme which aims to support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners who are working with 2-year-olds. This training will be delivered through a mixture of theory and practical activities which aim to put a spotlight on provision for all of those involved with this unique age group of children.

The key themes explored through the sessions include:

- Child development
- Key milestones in each prime area
- Early support strategies and interventions
- Characteristics of effective teaching and learning
- Effective environments
- Appropriate curriculums



**Dates:** Session 1 - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 and Session 2 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Venue:** Castle Cavendish

**Time:** 9:30am - 12:30pm

**Cost:** £50 (covers both sessions)

**Booking:** [Early Years Course Booking - Course Details - Nottingham City Council](#)

## ***Agreement Trialling Sessions***

After the successful impact of these sessions last term, we are pleased to announce that we are now taking bookings for our **Summer Term Agreement Trialling Sessions** which will be running during June 2025. This term, we are focusing on **Physical Development** with F1/nursery colleagues and **Reading** with F2/reception colleagues. At each session this term, there is also the option to discuss an **area or child of your choice**. We will also be sharing the most recent national and local updates and the new EYFSP information.

*Sessions are suitable for those working across both the school and the PVI sectors.*

*Find out more [here](#) and [book your space!](#)*

	<b>Age</b>	<b>Focus Areas</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time Options</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	Reception / F2 / Rising 5s	Reading and an area or child of your choice	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30
					13:00-15:30
			5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Castle Cavendish	09:00-12:00
					13:00-16:00
	Pre-School / F1 / 3-4s	Physical Development and an area or child of your choice	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Castle Cavendish	09:00-12:00
					13:00-16:00
		18 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30	
				13:00-15:30	

## ***Save The Dates - School Based Practitioners***

The EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialists within the Early Years Team are highlighting the following 2 dates to School-Based Practitioners:

### **EYFSP Drop-In Sessions**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Various slots throughout the day, Face to Face and Online Appointments available, Free of Charge**

These 10-minute drop-in sessions with the EYFS Teaching and Learning Specialists will support practitioners making judgements for individual children who are proving hard to assess or who may have unusual profiles. These are not moderation events; the drop-ins are designed to be supportive and to help practitioners with their assessment of children against the Early Learning Goals.

These appointments must be booked in advance and information to book a drop-in slot will be sent to schools in the Summer Term.

### **EYFSP Initial Data Briefing**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 3.30pm, Online, Free of Charge.**

This 75-minute briefing is specifically for School Leaders and Reception and Year One Class Teachers and will share key data messages from the 2024/25 EYFSP data. The session will provide opportunities for professional dialogue between Reception and Year One colleagues, providing time to interpret and better understand school cohort data and aid planning and preparation for a smooth and successful transition.

The link to join the Briefing will be shared with Head Teachers and Early Years Leads in July 2025.

## Key Summer Term Dates for your Diary

This is a summary of key dates from the Early Years Term, including dates relating to Early Years Funding, Training and Networks and SEND Funding, which have been colour co-ordinated for ease as follows;

	<b>Early Years Funding Related Dates</b>
	<b>Training and Network Dates</b>
	<b>SEND Funding Related Dates</b>

For full information on all training courses, including timings, venues and cost, please visit the CPD pages of the Early Years Website and book all courses online at

[https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early\\_Years\\_Course\\_Booking](https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking)

If you've not yet booked your Annual Membership for SENCO and/or Leadership Networks for 2024-25, please email [eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

<b>April 2025</b>	
24 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Being a SENCO</b> For practitioners in the PVI sector who have a SENCO role
25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Childcare Expansion Funding</b> Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors
28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Safeguarding Refresher Training</b> Suitable for the PVI Sector
29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Headcount task closes for Summer Term funding claim</b> <i>Last day to submit claim</i>
29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Childcare Expansion Funding</b> Briefing session for potential grant applicants, suitable for all sectors
30 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Developing Early Number Sense for 3 – 4 years</b> For those working with 3–4-year-olds in Pre-Schools in the PVI or F1 in schools
<b>May 2025</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Part Two – Summer Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment</b> <i>Based on Spring Term portal claim</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>To Be Two – Part 1</b> Suitable for those working with, or planning to work with, 2-year-olds
7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Prevent Duty</b> For Nottingham City PVI Sector – Led by Louise Cox, Prevent Officer
8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Making Interactions Count for Under 3's</b> For practitioners in the PVI and schools working with children under 3
12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session</b> Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed

13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session</b> Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training</b> Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>To Be Two – Part 2</b> Suitable for those working with, or planning to work with, 2-year-olds
16 <sup>th</sup> May (provisional date)	<b>Confirmation Report Deadline</b> <i>you may also be contacted about double claims</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SEND Funding – Moderation Deadline for Summer 2 Interim Funding</b> Moderation must be completed prior to submission of funding requests. Please contact <a href="mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> to book as soon as possible
20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Making Interactions Count for 3-5 years</b> For those working with 3–5-year-olds in Pre-Schools in the PVI or F1 in schools
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>SEND Funding – Submission Deadline for Summer 2 Interim Panel</b>
<b>June 2025</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Part Three – Summer Term Early Years Entitlements Estimate Payment</b> <i>Based on Spring Term portal claim</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Childminder Briefing</b> Information session for those interested in becoming a Childminder
4 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>F2 Agreement Trialling Sessions</b> Online session, suitable for all sectors
5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>F2 Agreement Trialling Sessions</b> Face to face session, suitable for all sectors
5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>SENCO Network</b> For Nottingham City PVI SENCO's & schools delivering 2-year-old places
9 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session</b> Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
10 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session</b> Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
11 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>DSL Network</b> Suitable for Nottingham City PVI Practitioners
12 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>SEND Funding – Summer 2 Panel Meeting</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Pre-School Agreement Trialling Sessions</b> Face to face session, suitable for all sectors
18 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Pre-School Agreement Trialling Sessions</b> Online session, suitable for all sectors
20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training</b> Suitable for the PVI Sector – Led by Karen Shead, Safeguarding Trainer
24 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Safeguarding Refresher Training</b> Suitable for the PVI Sector

24 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Drop In</b> Suitable for Nottingham City School Based Staff
25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Leadership Network</b> Annual Membership suitable for Proprietors/Leaders and Managers in the PVI
30 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Designated Safeguarding Leads</b> For Nottingham City PVI practitioners who are new to the DSL role
<b>July 2025</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Childminder Network</b> Suitable for Nottingham City Childminders Only
10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Workshop for schools on claiming the funded early years entitlements</b> Specifically for new Office/Business Managers to support with the claiming process
14 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session</b> Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Blended Learning Paediatric First Aid – Practical Session</b> Suitable for all sectors, online e-learning also to be completed
15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>EYFSP Initial Data Briefing</b> Suitable for Nottingham City School Based Staff
15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Summer Term Balance payment</b> <i>Only paid if estimate has not covered earnings</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Refresher workshop for providers delivering funded early years entitlement places</b> Suitable for the PVI Sector
16 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Workshop for providers new to delivering funded early years entitlement places</b> Suitable for the PVI Sector
<b>August 2025</b>	
31 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>Deadline to submit Early Years Entitlement Funding Adjustment Form</b> <i>Used to inform us of any late starters/early leavers which will be paid/invoiced at the start of Autumn Term</i>

For any **funding related queries**, please check the Funding Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email [eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

You can **book all these courses online** at [https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early\\_Years\\_Course\\_Booking](https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/Early_Years_Course_Booking) and if you have any questions or would like to enrol for **Network Membership**, please contact [eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

For any **SEND Funding related queries**, please check out the Equality and Inclusion Pages of our Early Years Website and if you can't find what you are looking for, please email [eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

## ***SEND Update***

### **Transitions**

As we move into the Summer Term many of you will be supporting children to prepare for transition to school. This can be a worrying and uncertain time for many children, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

To enable children to feel secure and settle more easily into their new environment, careful thought and planning will need to take place.

You may find the resources on our [dedicated section for Transitions on the Early Years Website](#) helpful in planning for, and carrying out, these transitions for children.

If you require further support or guidance, please contact [eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### **SEND Funding**

Please remember to complete an [Amendments Form](#) for any children who are in receipt of SEND Funding and are moving to school.

### **Key Dates for Funding Applications**

<b>Summer 2 Interim Panel</b>	<b>Moderation Deadline</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Panel Meeting</b>
	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 (12 noon)	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025 (12 noon)	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

Moderation **MUST** be completed prior to submission of request. Please contact [eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfssend@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) to book in for moderation.

Due to the continued increase in requests being submitted after Panel deadline dates and taking in to account the complications and delays that this causes, going forward any requests received after the above deadline will not be accepted.

### **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**

From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, the DAF funding increased to £938 per eligible child claiming Disability Living Allowance and accessing an Early Years Entitlement place. In line with the lowered age range for children of working parents from 9 months of age being able to access early years entitlements, settings are able to claim for children from this age meeting the above criteria.

If you have claimed DAF for a child in your PVI setting and the child is transitioning to school, please ask the school to claim for the DAF on the School Census in January as the child may potentially still be eligible until they move into a Reception Class.

For further information and resources on the SEND Inclusion Fund and DAF, including a resource booklet for suggestions on how to spend allocated DAF Funding, please check out the [Equality and Inclusion Pages of the Early Years Website!](#)

## **Early Years Funding**

For any queries relating to Early Years Funding, please email [eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) and our Funding Team will aim to respond within 7 working days. Please note that a lot of answers to queries submitted (such as current hourly rates, payment dates, portal opening dates and how payments are calculated) can be found in the latest Provider Agreement and Further Information and Example Documentation Pack, which have been refreshed for 2025/26 and can be found on the [Funding Page of the Early Years Website](#)

### **Summer Term 2025 Headcount Information**

#### **Estimate Funding Payments**

Providers will have received part 1 of their Summer Term estimate payments as they are made around 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, part 2 will be paid around 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and part 3 around 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025. Please remember that these are based on the Spring Term headcount.

#### **Summer Term Head Count Task**

The Summer Term headcount task opened on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and will close on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Please remember that although your portal return will have been submitted by 29<sup>th</sup> April, your estimate payments for the Summer Term will remain the same amount as these are based on Spring Term figures and are signed off in advance of the current term.

#### **Balance Funding Payment**

Providers will receive their Summer Term balance payment around 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, and, as per the Provider Agreement, any debt owed will be taken off from any amounts owed to you this term (for example, you owe us for a 2 year old, but we owe you for a 3 year old, so if, after this, there is an outstanding debt, we will work with you to agree whether to take this off future payments, or raise an invoice).

#### **Confirmation Reports**

Please look out for an email for the actual deadline for Confirmation Reports, but this is currently provisionally set for 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Please ensure you look through your Confirmation Report within the deadline given. It is crucial that the details on your report are accurate, and this is the time to amend, add any new starters or reduce hours for any leavers.

It is particularly important to look at both the universal and extended/expanded columns to ensure that you are claiming the correct hours for all entitlements.

All changes will be included in main balance payments on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, unless the Confirmation Report is received after the deadline or further information is required which may take the changes over the deadline for them to be included in the main balance payment.

#### **Adjustments**

Any amendments due to leavers or starters after the Confirmation Report stage, will need to be made using the [Adjustment Form](#). Please remember that Adjustment Forms need to be completed and submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 to receive payment.

#### **End of Term Reports**

These are now back up and running and will be sent through the portal. We aim to send these out before balance payments reach you. We can't make any changes to the balance payments at this stage and so any changes will need to be made via the [Adjustment Form](#).

## **Charging Queries**

Following the release of the updated Statutory Guidance governing the early years entitlements, which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, there have been several queries raised with the Department for Education around charging for consumables, and regarding providers setting a certain number of “fully free” places, with the rest being “funded” places, in respect of which providers impose additional mandatory charges. The guidance must reflect the law governing the delivery of the early education and childcare entitlements, which has not changed. The updated guidance puts transparency at the heart of how the entitlement should be passed on to parents. This does not prevent providers from charging for food and other consumables, as long as these charges are not mandatory.

The legislation requires the local authority to secure that places are available free of charge to **each** eligible child in their area, the Department do not consider that offering free places only to some eligible children meets this duty.

Providers can choose to cap the number of early years entitlements places they offer within their setting overall, but all of the places that early years entitlements funding is received for must be accessed free of charge to parents. There must not be any mandatory charges for parents in relation to the free hours.

Further information, including frequently asked questions documents from the DfE, can be found on the [Funding Page on the Early Years Website](#)

## **Looking Ahead to Autumn Term 2025**

### **Annual Funded Hours**

The free childcare working parent regulations set out that a child is currently entitled to 570 hours a year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. From September 2025 this will become 1,140 hours a year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. The year begins when the child first becomes eligible for the entitlement and may be described as the child’s “entitlement year”. For those children accessing an early years entitlement place before September 2025, their full year of entitlement hours will be adjusted accordingly. For example;

- Children who became eligible in January 2025 will be entitled to 2 terms (Spring and Summer 2025) of 15 free hours a week and one term (Autumn 2025) of 30 hours free hours a week, so 780 funded hours in the year from 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
- Children who became eligible in April 2025 will be entitled to 1 term (Summer 2025) of 15 free hours a week and two terms (Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026) of 30 free hours a week, so 945 funded hours from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
- Children who become eligible in September 2025 will be entitled to the full 3 terms of 30 hours a week, so 1,140 funded hours from 1 September 2025 – 31 August 2026

Regarding stretching funded hours, please remember that the 30 hours a week entitlement for children aged 2 and under, does not come into force until 1 September 2025. Therefore, you must ensure that if a child is taking a stretched entitlement, they cannot take up more than 15 hours a week in the Spring and Summer 2025 Terms.

### **2 Years Olds Eligible for Both Working Parent and Families Receiving Additional Support (formerly disadvantaged 2-year-old) Entitlements**

A reminder that up until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, 2-year-olds who are entitled to both entitlements must be claimed for under the Families Receiving Additional Support Entitlement. From 1st September 2025, these families will be eligible for an additional 15 hours under the Working Parent Entitlement. You may wish to remind these families that they will need to have submitted their application, or reconfirmed their code ahead of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, if they want to access the additional 15 hours.

## ***Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements & Wraparound Childcare Programme***

### **Childcare Expansion Funding**

As part of the government's transformative reforms to childcare, the local authority received capital funding to support the creation of new early years entitlements places for children under the age of 3 in priority wards and capital and revenue funding to support wraparound places for primary school aged children across the City.

To date, we've committed over £30,000 in capital and £330,000 in revenue funding to support the creation of 110 new early years entitlement places and 246 wraparound places that will open over the next year.

**Subject to funding being available, we have 3 application rounds left.**

**Deadlines for these application rounds are:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Potential applicants can attend a [free online Briefing Session](#) on applying for Childcare Expansion Funding and more information, application forms and guidance notes, can be found at;

- [Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements](#)
- [Wraparound Childcare Programme](#)

Please direct any queries in relation to this funding to

[earlyyearexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### **Childcare Works Toolkits**

These toolkits bring together everything you need to grow, sustain and start childcare provision. With content curated by experts, you will find a wealth of useful and relevant information, all in one place.

The toolkits contain information specific to operating childcare provision, plus general information for businesses, childminders and charities, including expert marketing, HR, leadership and management, partnership working and more. Content is organised into six 'topics' with each topic divided into sub-topics: Business Planning, Business Growth, Running of Your Childcare Provision, Leadership and Management, Partnership Working and SEND and Inclusive Practice.

Access the:

- [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)
- [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)

### **WAC MI Summer Term Data Collection**

Providers receiving revenue funding for new wraparound places will be required to complete a Summer Term Management Information submission. The Summer Term reporting week will be 9<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and providers will have until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to complete the management information survey.

Further information will be sent directly to funded wraparound providers over the next month.

### **Save the Date for the Provider's Wraparound Conference Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

This is a fully funded, 1-day, joint event with Nottinghamshire County Council at East Midlands Conference Centre, specifically for providers delivering wraparound childcare provision for primary school aged children.

Keep an eye on future [Stay Connected with Early Years](#) communications and on the [Wraparound Childcare](#) pages of the Early Years website for further information!

You can download the full information fact sheet from Childcare Works on Maximising Existing Marketing and Promotional Materials by [clicking here!](#)



## Maximising existing marketing and promotional materials

Marketing and promotion are important tasks for all providers, especially as the expansion of early education and wraparound childcare continues.

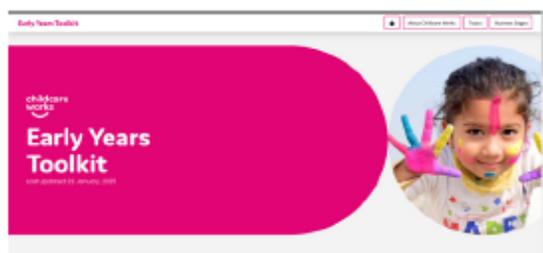
We have seen early demand from existing families, and then a gradual increase of interest from new families. In some areas demand has exceeded expectations, whilst other areas may still be growing.

In a growing and changing childcare market, schools and providers must understand how to market their services to attract and sustain customers.

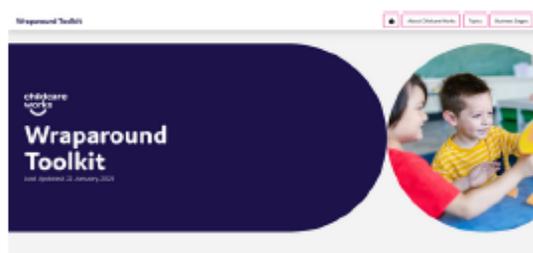
The Childcare Works HUB has been developed to support group childcare providers, childminders and schools in the expansion of the early years entitlements and implementation of the wraparound programme.

On the HUB you will find videos, tools, documents, links, helpful suggestions, and training, including real life case studies, and the voice of the provider.

There are two useful toolkits. Use the QR codes or links to go straight to the marketing sections in the relevant toolkit.



[childcareworks.org.uk/early-years-toolkit/main-topic/business-growth/](https://childcareworks.org.uk/early-years-toolkit/main-topic/business-growth/)

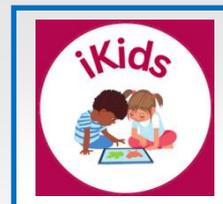


[childcareworks.org.uk/wraparound-toolkit/main-topic/business-growth/](https://childcareworks.org.uk/wraparound-toolkit/main-topic/business-growth/)



### **iKids Study**

Sheffield Hallam University are looking for PVI sector childcare settings to help them explore how mobile devices impact young children's development. There is a financial incentive for parents and settings taking part in the study which involves simple assessments for children at age 3 (repeated a year later at age 4) and fun, age-appropriate activities exploring cognitive development and motor skills. The study is also looking for children that don't use screens and can accommodate transition between settings. With so many parents and childcare settings asking about screen time, the study aims to provide real evidence-based guidance. To find out more and register your interest, check out the [iKids Study](#) or the [news story](#) on our website.



## ***News from the Department for Education***



**Department  
for Education**



Department  
for Education

Early Years Qualifications

## **Are you an early years practitioner? We need your help!**

### **The Department for Education wants to hear from early years practitioners!**

Your insights will help us understand more about early years qualifications. The survey takes just 10 minutes—your feedback makes a difference!



**Scan the QR code to participate**

## **New Digital Service to Check Early Years Qualifications Now Live!**

In January 2025, the DfE announced the **Check an Early Years Qualification (CEYQ) service** to help Early Years (EY) managers verify whether qualifications meet ratio requirements. This free service is now live on the [government website](#)

CEYQ service allows managers to check staff qualifications quickly and easily by entering key details such as the qualification name, awarding organisation, and course start date. A clear outcome is provided, which can be printed for records. This tool saves managers valuable time during recruitment and HR processes, ensuring they have appropriately qualified staff in place ahead of the expansion of funded childcare entitlements in September 2025.

CEYQ is currently available for **EY managers only**. Practitioners should continue using the [Early Years Qualifications List \(EYQL\)](#) to check their qualifications and, if further clarification is needed, practitioners can contact the DfE's supplier, Ecctis.

We would encourage you to make full use of this service to streamline qualification checks and support workforce planning.

## ***The Early Years Team News and Contact Information***

### **Update on the Workforce Development Team**

At the end of January 2025, we said goodbye to Katie-Leigh Hickling as our Workforce Development Support Officer. Katie has moved into a school-based role, and we wish her all the very best with her next chapter!

We have recently successfully appointed a new Workforce Development Support Officer, and they are due to start with the Team in the coming months.

In the meantime, please continue to check out our [Workforce Development Pages](#) for the latest training opportunities available and for any workforce development related queries, please email [eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) and a member of the Team will aim to get back to you within 7 working days.

### ***Contact Us.....***

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[@EarlyNottingham](https://twitter.com/EarlyNottingham)