



Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 33 – Wednesday 27th May 2026

Read me now – Urgent and important information

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Deadline – 2 Days Left!
Launched earlier this month, we have already had a great response to our Childcare Sufficiency Surveys, but with 2 days to go and aiming for a 100% return rate from schools and providers, we need more! **If you're yet to complete your survey, please do so as soon as possible, before 29th May 2026**, this is critical in informing future place planning and sustainability. Further information and access QR codes for all surveys on the [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Page](#) of our website. Thank you!

Early Years Census – Deadline 29th May 2026
The Early Years Census is now a termly data collection that collects provider and pupil data in January, May and October. The Summer Census date was Thursday 21st May 2026 and is the first of the new collections. Less data is required this term, but the census form should be completed by Friday 29th May 2026 using this link - [Early Year Census 2026 - Summer Term - Section 1 - Nottingham City Council](#).
If you have any problems filling in the form, then please email jude.naylor-eade@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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

Agreement Trialling for Colleagues in Reception

This term we will focus on **Numerical Pattern**, our second largest gap to national in 2026, **and an Area or Child of your choice** to support with the judgements being made for the completion of EYFSP. We will also be offering **SEND** support during these discussions.

Reception	Numerical Pattern and an area/child of your choice	Wed 3 rd June 2026	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30	SPACES REMAINING
		Wed 3 rd June 2026	In person at the Indian Community Centre Association, NG5 1QZ	13:00-16:00	SPACES REMAINING

Agreement Trialling for Colleagues in Pre-School

This term we will focus on **Physical Development and Literacy** to support with the judgements being made to aid the transition to starting reception. We will also be offering **SEND** support during these discussions.

Pre-School	Physical Development and Literacy	Thurs 18 th June 2026	Online via Teams	09:00-11:30	FULL
		Thurs 18 th June 2026	In person at the Indian Community Centre Association, NG5 1QZ	13:00-16:00	SPACES REMAINING

Research Survey: Mathematics in Practice Across the Reception - Year 1 Transition

The Centre for Early Mathematics Learning (CEML) at Loughborough University is conducting a research survey exploring how mathematics is typically taught and experienced across the transition from Reception to Year 1. The study aims to build a clearer picture of current practice to inform future research in early mathematics education. Teachers working in Reception, Year 1, or mixed-age classes including these year groups are invited to participate. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous and confidential. Please follow this link: <https://canva.link/j22jhr3ewkmtj68> for further information on how to take part.

Designated Safeguarding Leads - Tuesday 4th August 2026

Due to high demand, an additional Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training session has been added to the training calendar! This will take place on Tuesday 4 August 2026, 9.30am – 12.30pm at Nottingham Central Library. [Click here](#) to find out more and book your place!

Leadership Network - Wednesday 24th June 2026

The Summer Leadership Network is taking place on Wednesday 24th June 2026, 10am - 12pm online via Microsoft Teams.

In addition to sharing local and national updates, we have arranged for guest speakers to provide information and support on 'managing behaviour challenges' which we know has been highlighted across the sector and 'successful transitions' given the increased focus on links between settings, as requested in recent evaluations. We have also been approached by Nottingham Trent University to share information on their level 5 training offer.

If you would like to attend, please return a [Network Membership Form](#) before [booking a place](#).

East Midlands West Maths Update – Reception Teachers

Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 is a fully funded Maths Hub programme designed to support schools in building strong early mathematical foundations. It focuses on developing children's number sense through short, regular sessions using high-quality, research-informed resources. Participating teachers receive training and collaborate with peers to strengthen teaching approaches, including the use of manipulatives and strategies that promote fluency and flexibility with number.

The programme is recruiting now – more information can be found here: [Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 – East Midlands West Maths Hub](#)

Asbestos in consumer products information page

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) have published a page on gov.uk containing [guidance for consumers and businesses on consumer products containing asbestos](#). The page provides disposal guidance for both businesses and consumers, including early years settings, along with health information. Settings should review the linked [list of contaminated products that are subject to recalls](#) and where products are identified in the setting follow the guidance to ensure their safe disposal.

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

Best Start in Life – Steps for School

Following the launch of the Best Start in Life: Preparing for School campaign, the DfE have created [The Steps for School campaign toolkit](#) which includes context about the campaign, why it's important and information on how we can share these resources with parents. The campaign aims to direct parents to the [Best Start in Life website](#) where they can find trusted, practical tips to help their child feel confident and prepared for school. Please share with your parents in your communications.

New Training Videos from the National Child Mortality Database Programme

The NCMD have released some new training videos aimed at professionals working with families to help better advise families who have been bereaved by deaths through trauma, accidents or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. This video training can be asked [here](#).

UKRI's Research and Development Mission Accelerator Programme

UKRI have now launched their first funding competition through Innovate UK as part of our [Home Learning Environment Challenge](#). More details about the competition are available here: [Contract for Innovation: Boosting fathers' engagement to improve child outcomes](#). Organisations can apply for a share of up to £2 million, inclusive of VAT, to develop innovative interventions, technologies, and frameworks that **boost fathers' engagement to improve children's learning and development outcomes**. Competition closes on Wednesday 10 June 2026 11:00am.

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