

April 2024
All Sector Issue 21

2024
Summer
Term Edition

Nottingham City Early Years Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you have all enjoyed the Easter break, it is hard to believe that a quarter of the year has gone already but what an interesting three quarters to come!

Please remember we value your honest feedback, which you can share by emailing your comments to earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Best wishes,
The Early Years Team

**Inside this
Issue!**

*Entitlements Expansion,
Funding, CPD,
National News and
lots more...*



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Early Years Funding

Summer 2024 Estimate Funding Payments

Providers will already have received part 1 of their estimate payments as they are made around 1st April 2024. Estimate payment part 2 will be paid around 1st May 2024 and part 3 around 1st June 2024.

If you have requested an additional estimate payment for the new 2 year old working parent entitlement, settings should expect to receive this towards the end of April 2024.

If you are new to funding, or have not claimed for a while, but are being paid an estimate payment, your payment may be paid in a lump sum rather than monthly, until you are set up on the system for regular payments. If you are a provider needing any further clarification on this, please email earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Summer Head Count: 25th March – 26th April 2024

Please remember that although your portal return submission deadline is 26th April 2024, your estimate payments will still remain the same amount as these are based on last terms attendance and are signed off in advance of the current term.

Balance Payments: These will be paid on 15th July 2024 and as per the Provider Agreement, any debt owed will be taken off from any amounts we may owe you this term (i.e. you owe us for a 2 year old, but we owe you for a 3 year old). If after this there is an outstanding debt, we will work with you to agree whether to take this off future payments, or to raise an invoice.

Confirmation Reports: The deadline for Confirmation Reports is 10th May 2024. Please ensure you look through your Confirmation Report within the deadline given. It is crucial that the details on your report are accurate, if they aren't - 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. So, if you are providing working parent funding this should show in the expanded column. If you are providing 30 hours, 15 should show in both columns. If you are sharing the 30 hour offer with another provider, ensure that your 15 hours are in either the universal or the extended column, depending upon what was agreed when the placement was offered.

All changes will be included in main balance payments on 15th July 2024, unless we receive the reports late or require further information which may take us over the deadline for them to be included.

Adjustments: Any amendments due to leavers or starters after the Confirmation Report stage, will need to be made using the Adjustment Form (available at https://myaccount.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/service/early_years_funding). Please remember adjustment forms need to be completed and sent by 31st August 2024 to ensure payment. Depending upon volumes of adjustments and changes on Confirmation Reports, we aim to include some adjustments on main payments, if not these will be paid at the start of the following term as per the Provider Agreement.

End of Term Reports

These will be available on the portal in July 2024. These reports give a breakdown analysis and most payment queries can be answered using them. Please remember that they will not include supplement payments and the majority of adjustments.

Funding/Portal Training Dates

New to Funding (PVI)	18 th July 2024	10:00am – 11:30am	Online	Book
Refresher Training (PVI)	18 th July 2024	1:00pm – 2:30pm	Online	Book

Additional Evening Dates added for PVI Sector

Following on from the Annual Business Meeting, evening funding/portal training sessions were requested. As mentioned at the meeting, we appreciate that daytime sessions are not always possible to attend, and evening sessions have been held in the past, but attendance was poor.

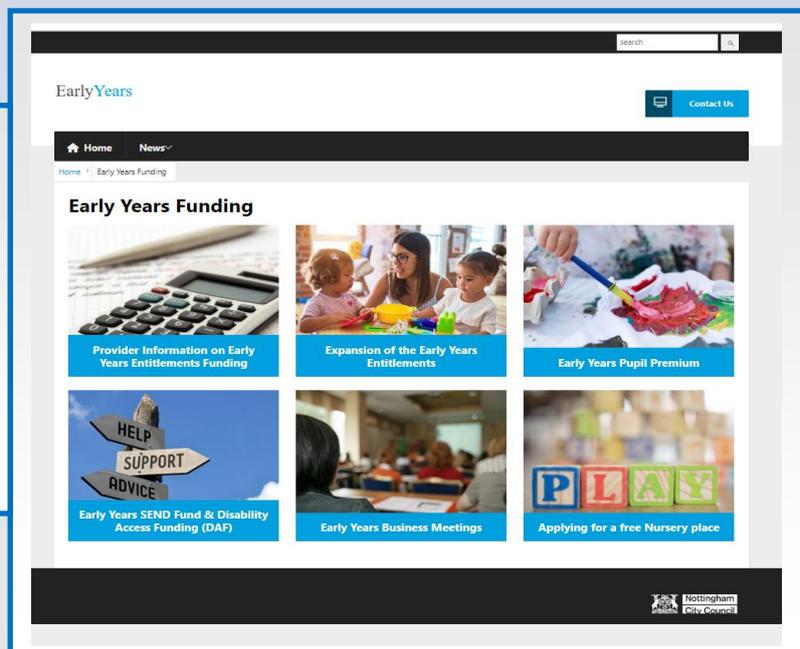
Therefore, we do need your commitment that if you book on to the session that you will attend, and we will contact those booked on the day before to confirm attendance. We do, of course, recognise you may need to cancel for urgent issues.

17 th April 2024	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Online	Book
25 th June 2024	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Online	Book

Here to help....

If you are new to funding our website has a wealth of information about funding, CPD, SEND, EYFS and as they say...lots, lots more!

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/>



Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements

Working Parent Entitlement for 2 Year Olds Goes Live!

By the time you're reading this newsletter the first of the new early years entitlements will be in place, with working parents of 2 year olds being able to access 15 hours of funded early years provision from 1st April 2024! At the beginning of April, 72% of codes in our LA had been validated, which is above both the regional and national averages so thank you and keep up the prompt validating!

It is expected that many children in this new funded cohort may already have been known to your setting, with children converting from paid for places to partly/wholly funded places as part of this entitlement. As per the current good practice guidance on issuing invoices, all funded provision must be detailed on invoices as being at no cost to the parent, demonstrating it is free at the point of delivery, with any additional costs clearly itemised. Please refer to the latest Provider Agreement and Further Information and Example Documentation pack on the [Early Years Funding](#) pages of the website for more detail on invoice structure.

Specific to note for this particular cohort of funded 2 year olds is the following;

- There may be some circumstances where households may be eligible for both the disadvantaged 2 year old entitlement and the working parents entitlement. Parents can only receive 1 entitlement at a time and the current advice is to access the disadvantaged entitlement to ensure provision is continuous and eligibility isn't lost.
- Don't forget these children can apply for EYPP, DAF & the SEND Inclusion Funding if they are accessing their early years entitlements and meet the additional specific criteria. The new Parent/Provider Agreement template provides consent for checking eligibility.
- As per all working parent entitlements, keep an eye on the Portal and remind parents to reconfirm their eligibility when prompted by HMRC to avoid parents falling into the grace period.

Finally, please remember there is no change to the existing entitlement or the eligibility criteria and application process for the disadvantaged entitlement for 2 year olds.

Looking ahead to September 2024...

With the first milestone passed, we look forward to September 2024 when eligibility extends down to children aged 9 – 23 months, with 15 hours funded childcare becoming available for these children from the term following them turning 9 months old.

From 12th May 2024, eligible working parents of children from 9 months old will be able to register to access this 15 hour entitlement from September 2024. Please encourage parents to check their eligibility on the [Childcare Choices](#) website. Parents can apply for codes for September until 31 August 2024.

Parents who are already claiming Tax Free childcare and need to reconfirm their eligibility between 1st April and 12th May, prior to the new offer opening, will automatically be issued a code in the post by HMRC soon after applications open. If you have any difficulties in checking eligibility codes, please contact earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk for support.

To mirror the additional estimate payment offered for Working Parents of 2 Year Olds during the Summer Term, we anticipate replicating this for the new cohort of 9-23 month olds that will be eligible for funding during the Autumn Term. This would again be a one-off estimate payment in September 2024, in addition to your normal estimate payment, for this new cohort of children only, paid if the required documentation is submitted. As per the Summer Term additional payment, this will be for 75% of what the funded hours would be for the Autumn Term, with the payment for the actual hours of attendance for these children being reconciled as part of the Provider's normal balance payment in December 2024. Further information will be shared in due course.

Keep up to date with the latest information, including opportunities for capital funding and updated links for business support and remodelling at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/early-years-funding/expansion-of-the-early-years-entitlements/>



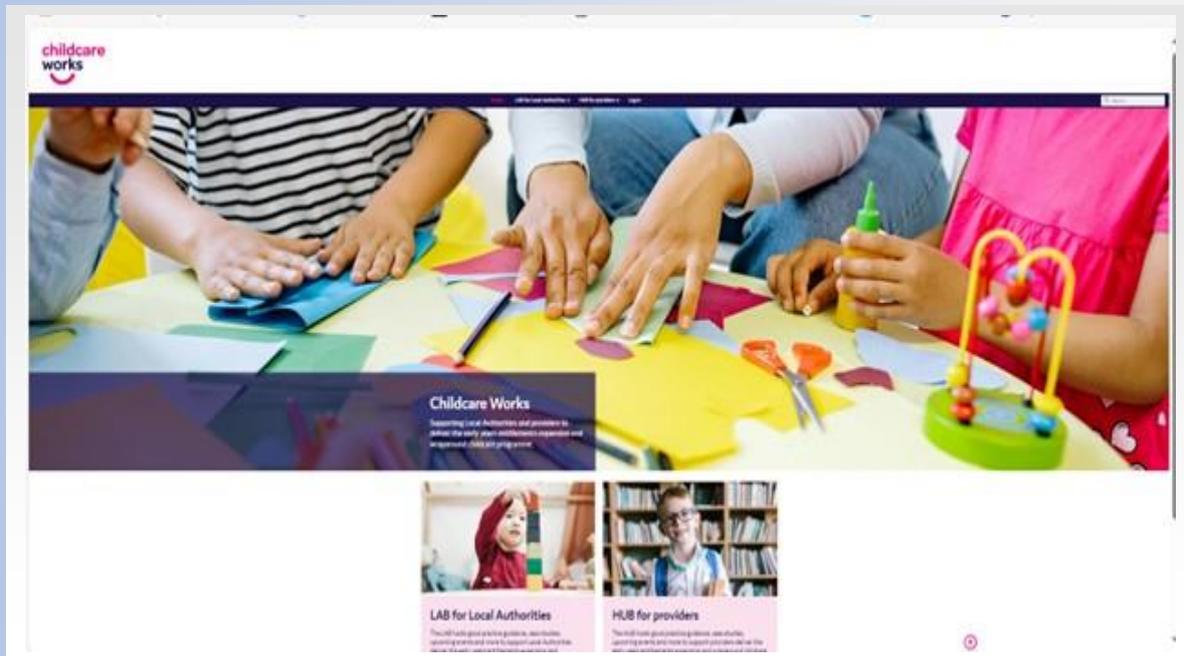
Childcare Works launch new HUB for Providers!

Childcare Works are supporting Local Authorities and Providers to deliver the early years entitlements expansion and the wraparound childcare programme.

Childcare Works will be listening to what providers need and create resources, tools and guidance in response. Completed resources will be hosted in the HUB; a one-stop shop for all roll-out resources.

The HUB will host a bank of resources, a comprehensive library of good practice guidance, case studies, upcoming events and more to support providers deliver the early years entitlements expansion and wraparound childcare programme.

Find out more and explore what's available at <https://childcareworks.org.uk/>



Workforce Development including EYFSP & Agreement Trialling

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Support for Schools

Save the Date!

In response to feedback received, we will be holding a series of drop-in sessions on

Tuesday 25th June 2024

where we will be available to support practitioners making judgements for individual children who are proving hard to assess or who may have unusual profiles.

Throughout the day we are offering either face to face drop-in sessions at Loxley House or online Teams bookings to provide designated time slots for these discussions.

The session will need to be booked in advance and will be *available:

8:00am - 9:00am

11:30am - 1:30pm

3:00pm – 4:30pm

We anticipate that each booking will be a **10-minute slot** but if you feel that you need longer, you would be able to book more than one slot.

These sessions are designed to be supportive and to help practitioners with their assessment of children against the Early Learning Goals – they are not moderation events.

Please Note:

Information on how to book for a face to face drop-in or register for a Teams call will be sent out to schools shortly.

* Delivery format TBC

Agreement Trialling Spring Term Evaluation 2024

*These **FREE sessions** provide a valuable discussion and networking opportunity for early years practitioners. Providing updates and ideas to enhance provision and enabling them to develop confidence and consistency when making assessment judgements.*

Sessions are suitable for those working across the sector and we offer sessions for those teaching 3-4 year olds (pre-school) and 4-5 year olds (rising 5s/reception).

*Throughout March we delivered these sessions to **93 practitioners from 61 different settings** (51 schools and 10 PVI) having representation from 12 different school trusts, nursery chains, maintained schools and independent nurseries.*

We are currently planning the summer sessions – the dates and venues are shown below:

	Age	Focus Areas	Date	Venue	Time Options
Summer Term	Preschool / 3-4s	Maths and free choice	9 th July 2024	Castle Cavendish	9:00am-12:00pm
					1:00pm-4:00pm
			10 th July 2024	Online via Teams	9:00am-11:30am
					1:00pm-3:30pm
	Reception / Rising 5s	Writing and free choice	18 th June 2024	Castle Cavendish	9:00am-12:00pm
					1:00pm-4:00pm
19 th June 2024			Online via Teams	9:00am-11:30am	
				1:00pm-3:30pm	

Book a space [HERE](#) and come and join us

Still not sure? Check out some of the evaluation feedback from the Spring sessions:

- *“I came away with ideas, validation and feeling part of a community”*
- *“Great to talk to others and draw on different experiences”*
- *“Reassuring, helpful and supportive”*
- *“Providing updates, resources and opportunities for networking and sharing practice is really useful”*
- *“Great confidence boost – friendly and informative”*
- *“Warm and welcoming”*
- *“Valued opportunity to talk about SEND children and get practical ideas to take back”*
- *“The most valuable CPD this year”*

CPD – Coming Up During Summer Term

As our 2023 – 2024 CPD programme comes to an end please ensure you take advantage of the courses on offer during the Summer Term as it will be a while before these are repeated.

To Be Two

30th April 2024 & 16th May 2024 @ Castle Cavendish, 9:30am – 12:30pm, £50pp

As the early years' entitlements expand, more 2 year olds will be accessing childcare provision and therefore childcare places for 2 year olds will be expanding. 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 two-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 & learning
- Effective environments
- Appropriate curriculums

**Making Interactions
Count 0-2 Years
1st May 2024
9:30am – 12:30pm
@ Castle Cavendish
£45pp**

Combining theoretical concepts with practical activities, this session gives practitioners the opportunity to reflect on their interactions with our youngest children and explore what makes an effective interaction, with babies and toddlers. Participants will leave the session equipped with ideas on practical resources and activities to help support quality interactions through their day-to-day interactions with children, including making use of regular routines such as snack or nappy time!

Making Interactions Count 3-5 Years:

20th May 2024, 9:30am – 12:30pm @ Castle Cavendish, £45pp

This session, for practitioners working with 3-5 years olds will furnish participants with practical ideas, which will help them to explore different techniques to maintain the learning momentum when interacting with children, supporting them to engage in sustained shared thinking. It will also help participants to develop their confidence to assess the quality of interactions taking place in the practitioner's environment, indoors and outdoors.

**Developing Early Number
Sense 3-4 Years
24th April 2024
9:15am – 12:25pm
@ Castle Cavendish, £45pp**

The session will enable you to develop your understanding of early number sense and help you to reflect on how your learning environment engages children and practitioners in mathematical conversations. The course will help develop practitioners' understanding of Early Number Sense and understand how to develop a mathematically engaging environment.

Forest School Camp Fire Workshop

9th May 2024, 9:30am – 12:00pm @ Bulwell Forest Community Gardens, £30pp

A new outdoor workshop held at Bulwell Forest Community Gardens and run by a fully qualified Forest School Practitioner. The Forest School Leader will take you through a range of activities including building campfires, fire lighting and what fuel to use, along with camp-fire safety. The workshop aims to provide you with confidence and tips for having camp-fires in your own outdoor areas and will also look at a variety of activities and treats for EYFS children to enjoy around the fire.

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

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 and carrying out transitions for children, please see link below.

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/equality-and-inclusion/support-strategies-for-children-with-send/>

If you require further support or guidance, please contact EYFSEND@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

SEND Funding - Main Panel Key Dates

	Moderation Deadline	Application Submission Deadline	Panel Meeting
Summer 2 Interim Panel	Friday 17th May 2024 12 noon	Friday 24th May 2024 12 noon	Wednesday 12th June 2024

Please Note - Moderation MUST be completed prior to submission of request.

We aim to issue Interim Panel results two weeks after the panel date.

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

Disability Access Fund Increase

The Disability Access Fund is £910 per year for eligible children from 1st April 2024, including 2 year olds!

The criteria:

- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- The child is in receipt of either of the 2 year old early years entitlements; for disadvantaged children or the entitlement for working parents
- The child is in receipt of the 3 and 4 year old early years entitlement
- The child is not attending a reception class in a primary or infant school/academy

From 1st September 2024, children from 9 months of age accessing the working parent early years entitlements and meeting the above criteria will also be eligible.

USEFUL WEBSITES

The Early Years Website provides many resources for practitioners to access.

Ctrl + Click on the picture opposite to go to Inclusive Resources

Community Playthings Learning Library also has some very useful resources.

EarlyYears

Home News

Home > Equality and Inclusion > Inclusive Resources

Inclusive Resources

There is a wide variety of diverse resources and books to support inclusion. The information on the related pages provides only a sample of ideas for inclusive and diverse resources, through a combination of links to books, websites and videos to support Early Years Providers in creating an inclusive, diverse environment for the children in their provision.

- Resources can be found in a variety of places
- Resources do not need to cost a lot of money
- Resources can be everyday objects, bought from a charity shop or recycled from another source

These resources were on display at the Charity Shop Stall at our last Early Years Conference;

Also see

- [Books to share with children](#)
- [Books for Practitioners](#)
- [Sensory Equipment & Other Resources](#)
- [Programmes, Campaigns & Useful Resources](#)
- [Calendar and Religious Festivals and Events 2024](#)

Learning library

Children are amazing and so unique, and the educator's job is never straightforward! Continuing professional development (CPD) is essential for all teachers, and we have collected an abundance of information to support you.

Recently added

- ARTICLE**
Paper bird crafts for preschoolers
Now you can make your paper blue tit or robin! The following craft project is perfect for preschool children with a little support from the adults in the room.
- VIDEO**
The flexibility of Roomscapes in your 3-5s room
Roomscapes act like a gentle third teacher, directing traffic and keeping your room calm and productive.
- ARTICLE**
Communicating effectively with children
How can we communicate effectively with children - especially during transitions and busy group times?
- VIDEO**
The flexibility of Roomscapes in the baby room
Babies are determined athletes. Roomscapes is an environment that can keep up with them.

Most popular

KEY SUMMER TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

	Early Years Funding Related Dates
	Training and Network Dates
	SEND Funding Related Dates

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)

To sign up for Annual Membership for SENCO and/or Leadership Networks for 2024-25, please email eytraining@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

APRIL	Portal Training – Evening Session (Additional Date)	17 th April
	Maths – Developing Early Number Sense	24 th April
	Portal Returns	26 th April
	To Be Two – Part One	30 th April
MAY	Estimate Payment Part 2 (Approx. date)	1 st May
	Making Interactions Count 0 – 2 Years	1 st May
	Forest School Camp Fire Workshop	9 th May
	Confirmation Reports Deadline	10 th May
	To Be Two - Part Two	16 th May
	SEND Moderation	17 th May
	Making Interactions Count 3 – 5 Years	20 th May
	Childminder Briefing	21 st May
	Introduction to Safeguarding Children	22 nd May
	SEND Application Submission Deadline	24 th May
JUNE	Estimate Payment Part 3 (Approx. date)	1 st June
	DSL Network	5 th June
	EYFSP	11 th June
	SEND Panel Meeting	12 th June
	SENCO Network	13 th June
	DSL training	14 th June
	Agreement Trialling - Rising 5's	18 & 19 th June
	Funding Training – Evening Session (Additional Date)	25 th June
	EYFSP sessions (Schools - see page 7)	25 th June
	Leadership Network	26 th June
JULY	Childminder Network	2 nd July
	PREVENT Duty	4 th July
	Paediatric First Aid Course	8 th July
	Paediatric First Aid Course	9 th July
	Agreement Trialling 3 – 4 Years	9 & 10 th July
	Funding Workshop for Schools	11 th July
	Funding Balance Payments (Approx. date)	15 th July
	Head Teachers, EYFS Practitioners (F2), Year 1 Teachers & Assessment Co-ordinators Briefing on EYFSP Data/Transitioning into Year 1	16 th July
	New to Funding Training (PVI)	18 th July
	Funding Refresher Training (PVI)	18 th July

Childminder Consultation Roadshow



Department
for Education

The Department for Education is running an online Childminder Consultation Roadshow **on Thursday 18th April 2024. The event will start at 7pm (please aim to join 15 minutes before the start time) and finish at 8pm** and will be held **online via Teams in a webinar format.**

The Department's childminder consultation marks an important part of the government's plan to recruit and retain more childminders, recognising the important role they play in the childcare sector by providing high quality, flexible, entitlements and wraparound childcare. The Department knows childminders face specific challenges and the consultation seeks to understand and address these issues.

This event is an opportunity for childminders to hear about the Department's ambitions for childminders, including proposals in the Department's childminder consultation. It is also an opportunity for the DfE to hear from childminders to help shape and manage our next steps.

The event agenda will include speakers from the DfE and a Q&A session with DfE officials working on childminder policy and the early years entitlements and wraparound programmes.

Places are limited and are being offered on a first-come-first-served basis. [CLICK HERE](#) to register and secure your place.

Furthermore, you can view and respond to the childminder consultation (open until 10 May 2024) here: [Childminder recruitment and retention consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Please note this event is not being led by the Early Years Team, the Department have asked us to send this information on their behalf.

For childminders registered to attend the event, further communications, including details on the event agenda and speakers will be sent directly to registered delegates leading up to the event.

News from Families Information Service

The Families Information Service (FIS) provides free information, advice and guidance about organisations and services for children, young people and their families living in Nottingham City.

The Families Information Service phone number has changed from 0800 458 4114 to **0115 876 5910**.

Information includes details of all Ofsted registered childcare providers, children's centres, family support, education, including special educational needs and other specialist services.

The Families Information Service can also help with finding details about:

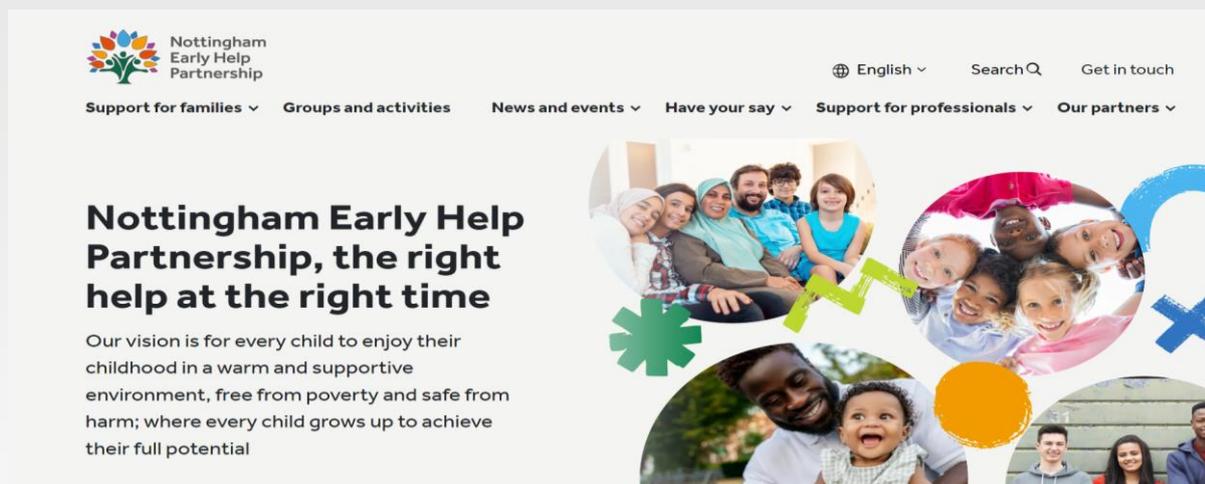
- **Childcare** - Providers located close to where you live or work & help with childcare costs, including
 - Free Childcare for 2-Year-Olds
 - Free Early Education for 3 & 4-Year-Olds
 - 30 Hours Free Childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds
 - Tax Free Childcare & Universal Credit.
 - Childcare Vouchers and Other Employer Schemes
- **Before and After School Childcare** - Childcare Directory page includes
 - After School and Breakfast Clubs
 - Playgroups, Nurseries, Holiday Clubs/Schemes
 - Childminders
 - Parent and Toddler Groups
- **Children and Families Activities** - Activities for the whole family on the Family Hubs page including
 - Young people and Family Hubs + Timetable
 - Activities, Hobbies and Events
 - Holidays Activities
- **Things To Do** - Directory page includes
 - Children's Centre and Youth Centre
 - Disabled Adults (Things to do)
 - Dementia, Refugee and LGBTQ+ Friendly Activities
 - Active Retirement
- **Families Support Services** - National and local support services for families and practitioners, including information on
 - Support for Families Directory (Work and Money, Domestic Crime, Parenting Support, Relationships and more)
 - Extended Local Offer for Care Leavers
 - Parenting Courses
 - Financial Support for Families

Use this [form](#) to contact the Families Information Service Team

Nottingham Early Help Partnership

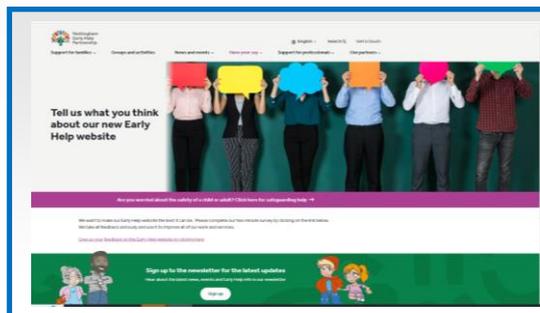
Nottingham Early Help Partnership provides a whole family approach so that the right help is provided at the right time. We aim to provide advice, support, and effective evidenced based interventions to prevent or reduce the chance of escalation of need and therefore the involvement of Statutory Services.

Launched in 2023 the website <https://www.earlyhelpnottingham.org.uk/> has a wealth of information for both professionals and parents.



As well as support for families and professionals the website is organised to bring the latest information on groups and activities around the city including news and events. You will find information on a whole host of subjects including mental and physical health, seeking work and training to name but a few.

The partnership are also interested in your views on the website and you can also sign up for regular updates!



Contact us.....

**The Early Years Team,
Nottingham City Council,
Loxley House,
Station Street,
Nottingham, NG2 3NG**

Email: earlyyears@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Website: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears

 : @Earlynottingham