



Case study: Fisherfield Farm Nurseries

The Background:

Fisherfield Farm Nurseries and after school clubs provide childcare and education in Greater Manchester.

The Group runs six nurseries and two school clubs in Bury and Rochdale, as well as a holiday club.

The challenge:

With growing numbers of children attending the Fisherfield Farm's nurseries, staff were being put under increasing pressure to complete more and more paperwork essential for communicating children's developments with parents and for meeting the government's EYFS criteria.

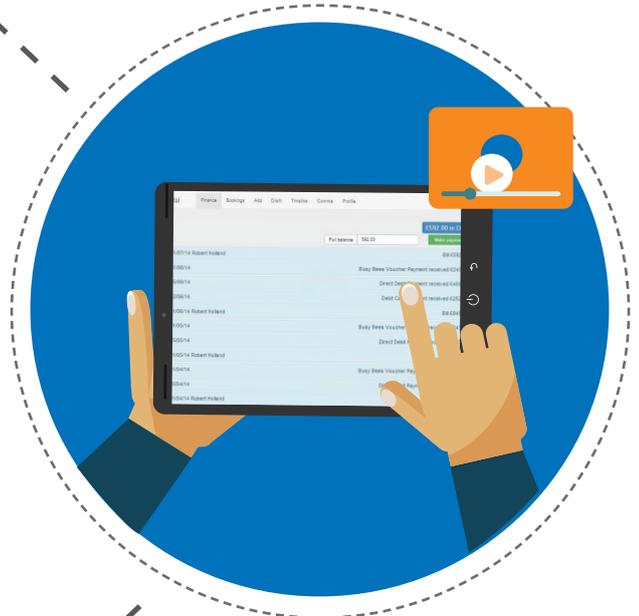
This had even led to some staff considering leaving the nurseries because they didn't enjoy the balance between paperwork and caring for and helping to develop the children in their care.

Owners Nicky and David MacGill were therefore keen to find a way of easing the administrative burden on their key members of staff whilst ensuring they continued to document and monitor developmental information about children.

The Solution:

Connect Childcare's innovative software offered the perfect solution to the teams at Fisherfield Farm. The iConnect software allows staff to quickly and easily record information in real time on tablets and then share this with parents through the ParentZone App.

It has cut down on duplication of records and the amount of paperwork needing to be stored at the nurseries.



"Staff absolutely love the iConnect software," said Nadia Salim, manager at the Edinburgh Way nursery. "It is the perfect resource for staff because it has significantly reduced the amount of paperwork they need to complete and is so simple to use.

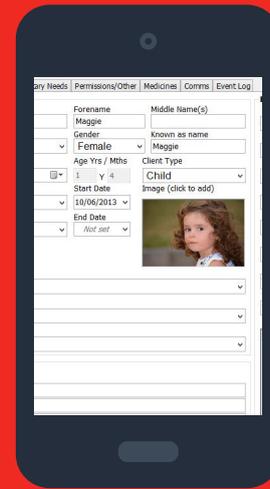
"We have a team who are familiar with using tablets and different apps in their personal lives so the technology is really familiar to them and so has been quick to pick up.

"Staff are much happier using iConnect and it has positively transformed the way we record children's learning journeys. It has so many uses, from monitoring late payments to finding out which staff are working which shifts, that I really don't know how we managed without it."

Fisherfield Farm have also been using the ParentZone app since it was launched in spring 2015. This allows parents to view Facebook style timelines of their children's time at nursery at a time to suit them and wherever they are as long as they have access to the internet and their personal login. Nadia added:



“As well as managing one of Fisherfield Farm's nurseries, I am a parent of a child at one of our other sites. I have loved being able to keep up-to-date with what they are doing in my spare moments at home or work and not have to trawl through pages of paper recording their progress. **ParentZone** is really visual and the photos and videos which are uploaded really bring their achievements to life.”



The Result:

Staff at Fisherfield Farm's nurseries are much happier using their new, online nursery management software because it has allowed them to commit more time to the children in their care. It has also helped to work in partnership better with parents because they are able to spend quality time looking at their children's achievements in their own time rather than in a handover at the end of the day.

David MacGill, director of Fisherfield Farm said: "Our previous process was too slow and very labour intensive; it was difficult to show a child's development to the parents in real time, as the process from capturing a photo to printing it, cutting it up, pasting it in the learning journey file and doing the necessary supporting information was very long."

“The move to the **iConnect** software was a brilliant one; staff loved it on arrival and really enjoy using the software. We can't imagine life without iConnect, and would definitely recommend it to other nursery providers.”

