



**How to Choose the correct
EYFS Learning Journey
Software for your Nursery
in a few simple steps...
without wasting precious
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In a busy setting, it can be a challenge to focus on providing outstanding childcare day-to-day, while continuing to record meaningful, detailed and essential EYFS observations.

Recording and storing every child's learning journey on paper is a demanding task that takes nursery staff away from doing the very thing that they are passionate about and employed to do – spending time with the children in their care. Sharing this fundamental learning journey information with parents and carers can be just as difficult - but not doing so will lead to a breakdown in communication with parents and carers and could result in a loss of confidence. Ultimately, this could result in lost business.

Switching to an online EYFS tracking software will not only help you take the strain out of working in the busy environment of a setting but will allow you to spend more time with the children whilst you strive to follow the statutory requirements of EYFS.

It's a very good idea to spend some time researching and carrying out credit checks before choosing your EYFS software provider. Your data is so important to you that you need to feel confident that the provider you choose is financially stable and that you feel comfortable with entrusting your data with them.



Allan Presland, CEO of Parenta Group shares his top tips for choosing the right EYFS software for your setting.

Time is of the essence



When visiting settings around the country, the subject of being time-poor comes up again and again with nursery managers. Anything you can do to save time, without compromising on accuracy has to be a bonus. Reducing unnecessary workload to free you and your staff up to spend more time with the children is always going to be the first thing you think about when you begin your research. When looking at the many companies that supply EYFS software, look for features that will enable you to be able to view key information at a glance on one screen, rather than having to spend time switching screens, or even switching software! Being able to observe, track and assess with ease and speed is essential.

Safeguarding

In today's society, where the physical, emotional and digital safeguarding of children is at the forefront of every parent's and carer's mind, it is vital that this safeguarding not only starts at home way before they begin school, but that the responsibility also lies with early years childcare providers. Being able to use digital photography confidently, knowing that you have full control over the images of those children who you don't want to be identified in a picture will give you peace of mind when sharing with parents and carers. The team at Parenta has developed new facial recognition 'smart' tagging and blurring technology for the new EYFS tracking software – Footsteps 2 - which means children not tagged in the photo are automatically blurred out. In effect, all children can be tagged in a photo, but when observations are sent to individual parents and carers, only the relevant faces will show, which supports safeguarding regulations within your setting and complies with the new GDPR requirements. This also means that children in the care system can now take part in individual and group photographs and the development of these children shared with foster parents and carers – this is unique to Footsteps 2. You can even crop, rotate, apply filters and change the brightness and contrast within the photo editing tools – so it can be fun too!



GDPR compliance

The software you choose has to be compliant with new GDPR regulations which came into effect in May 2018. It can be confusing, so when you are doing your research, ask to be taken through everything so that once you have chosen your software, you can have peace of mind knowing that your data is secure, hosted and backed up in line with GDPR compliance.

Support is everything

Don't settle for second best when it comes to support! Many providers will get you up and running and even provide some initial training but then will often leave you to it and expect you to pay extra for on-going support and training. Research the terms and conditions for things like free set up, unlimited users and training and 12 hours a day support. It will take a load off your mind if you know you have that exceptional service at your fingertips.



EYFS Recognised

Having spent years completing EYFS paperwork by hand, you don't want to feel that you are "starting all over again" simply because you have chosen to buy an online learning journey for the children in your care. Ensure you find a software package that uses the recognised language and colour coding of EYFS, so that it is not only familiar to you but also simple to use and won't require additional training for your staff. If you choose software that does this, your staff will be able to quickly capture detailed notes when observing a child play or interact, as well as save time when identifying where that child is in their own development pathway. As a busy setting, your staff need that ease of use and flexibility and you could definitely do with software that can be used on both desktop and laptop computers and mobile phones too- this will make it easier to update information on-the-go.

See clearly!

Choosing online software that lets you view key information at a glance on one screen for all children in your setting – including start date, leave date, gender, key person, age, date of birth, any medical conditions, allergies and if they have SEND is really important as this will save you hours of time. Look for software that gives you this information at your fingertips.



It's all about the Observations!



One of the fantastic things about moving to online EYFS software for the children in your care, as opposed to completing paperwork by hand is when it's time for an Ofsted visit, the progression of one or more children can be easily shown at the touch of a button – that's smart technology and will reduce your workload considerably - something you could never do if you were completing by hand! Things like being able to easily record CoEL and Leuven Scales as part of an observation as well as quick cohort tracking will open up a whole new world to you!

Although the whole EYFS curriculum is stored within the majority of software on the market, little extras like two-year check assessments can give even more insight into progress – helping you identify even more the areas of development or improvement needed. This is in addition to the EYFS profile which gives a summary of the child's progress throughout their time in your setting. This will also assist with their transition into primary education. When it comes to communicating with parents and carers, having this on-line reporting to be able to share with them is only going to lead to better relationships with them, greater word of mouth and hopefully more business for you!



Save time and make EYFS tracking easier.

Try our **EYFS Learning Journey Software** for **FREE** for **14 days!**

Get instant access today to all features!

START YOUR FREE FULL FEATURE 60 DAYS TRIAL TODAY!

Parenta Solutions



SOFTWARE

NURSERY MANAGEMENT - ABACUS

- Save hours by reducing planning time by 50%
- Speedy invoicing to all parents and carers in minutes
- Instant view of all financial reports
- Manage payments and track debt

EYFS LEARNING JOURNEY TRACKER - FOOTSTEPS 2

- Record meaningful and detailed EYFS observations
- Improve essential safeguarding and save hours of time
- Reduce your workload and spend more time with the children
- Identify at a glance each child's development pathway

ONLINE DAILY DIARY - DAYSHARE

- Share every magical moment of each child's day with their parents and carers with our online diary software

PARENT PORTAL APP

- Bringing parents and carers closer to their child's day by providing a timeline of their progress
- Download Parent Portal App on Android or iOS



FEE COLLECTION

- We collect fees, allowing you to focus on childcare, not credit control
- Fee collection reduces stress about pay day
- Maintain good relationships with parents
- Eliminate bad debt from your setting
- We operate on a 98% success rate across the board



TRAINING

Increase employee motivation and keep staff for longer within your setting by offering training – the ideal tool for you to develop your team.

Parenta courses include:

- Level 2 Childcare
- Level 3 EYE Diploma
- Level 5 Childcare Leadership Qualification
- Business Admin Levels 2 and 3
- Advanced Qualifications in Team Leading and Management

PLUS ... Parenta offers a free recruitment service - no fees!



ONLINE CPD COURSES

No deadlines, no time restrictions, no classroom! Support your staff or further your professional development with our online CPD accredited courses



MARKETING SOLUTIONS

WEBSITE DESIGN

- Our childcare websites generate genuine interest and leads from parents and carers
- We specialise in designing and building childcare websites so you can rest assured that our team know what Ofsted and parents/carers are looking for

BRANDING & DESIGN

- Showcase your setting with branded products. From newsletters to logos and prospectuses to business cards, we take care of all your branding needs

SOCIAL MEDIA

- We assist you with setting up and using your social media accounts in no time to help you increase your setting's visibility

Working together for our children



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