



IT'S TIME TO GET TO GRIPS WITH YOUR NEW SOFTWARE...

We wanted to let you know about some exciting changes.

As you know, we are dedicated to providing the best childcare service possible, and introducing **iConnect and ParentZone** from Connect Childcare should help to make this happen.

Please take some time to read this document and share it with the rest of your team.

It includes answers the following questions:

- What is iConnect and ParentZone?
- Why did we choose Connect Childcare?
- How do we get our parents on board with ParentZone?



WHAT IS ICONNECT AND PARENTZONE?



iConnect is the award-winning online learning journey software for Practitioners. But it's not just for observations, Practitioners can carry out all of their admin tasks; from assessments and progress reports to planning and next steps, at the touch of a button.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS:



INSTANT OBSERVATIONS

You can log observations immediately as they happen, complete with photo or video, without taking time away from your children. Your observations will be linked to the EYFS.



DAILY DIARIES

Daily activities like sleep times, meals and nappies can be logged quickly and even bulk uploaded for multiple children.



EASY REPORTS & DATA ANALYSIS

Connect generates Assessment Reports, Child Progress Reports and Cohort Trackers. Having all of your data logged and stored on iConnect will save you hours and give you accurate and reliable reports. Download the reports pack here: <http://bit.ly/iConnectReportsPack>



INFORMED ASSESSMENTS

You no longer need to thumb through folders of written observations in order to complete assessments. iConnect allows you to see all of a child's observations in every aspect of learning to enable you to complete informed assessments on child development.



REGISTERS

Online registers mean you can access them, along with emergency contact details, whenever you need straight from your tablets.



CHILD RECORDS, CONTACTS AND PERMISSIONS

All of a child's selected permissions, as well as their medical information, are available quickly and easily, on your tablets in your rooms. View emergency contacts at the touch of a button



NEXT STEPS

Record and analyse next steps for every child linking to observations and planning.



PLANNING

Plan for children's next steps and Enhanced Provision using available resources.



WHAT IS ICONNECT AND PARENTZONE?



ParentZone



In an ideal world, every parent and practitioner would have time to have a chat about their children each day at pick up time, but as you know, this is not always possible.

Through ParentZone, busy parents can log in and view their child's daily activities and wow moments when it is most convenient for them. Parents can contribute to their child's learning journey, make notes for their key person and strengthen their bond with the staff and setting.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS:



INSTANT UPDATES FOR PARENTS

Busy parents find out about their child's day wherever they are. With notifications to inform them whenever a new observation is published parents will never miss a moment of their child's development again. Even those parents that aren't able to collect their child themselves can have a better connection to the setting and get more involved in their child's learning.



PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

Parents can comment on observations posted to their child's learning journey so you don't need to wait until parents' evening to get feedback. Your parents can even upload their own observations from their time outside of nursery to give you a more complete view of a child's learning experiences. Receiving observations from home will give practitioners more information to use in planning activities and next steps and will strengthen bonds with the family.



ALWAYS UP TO DATE

You can make sure your data is always up to date and accurate as through ParentZone parents can request to edit their own personal details.



DAY IN THE LIFE REPORTS

Parents can email themselves a full report of their child's activities, including photos, so they know exactly what their child has been up to.



MORE CONVENIENCE

Parents can view their bookings and request new sessions whenever they need them. They can even see their bills and balance and pay their fees straight from their phones



WHAT IS ICONNECT AND PARENTZONE?



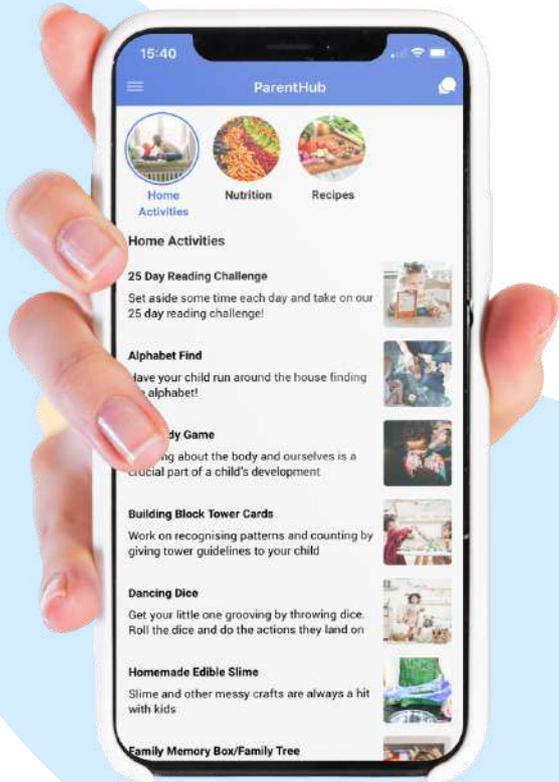
ParentHub



As well as instant updates of their child's activities and achievements, ParentZone gives parents access to the ParentHub...

Full of helpful resources, information and activity ideas, the ParentHub helps further improve child development by encouraging a continuation of learning at home.

PARENTHUB RESOURCES:



Home Activities



Nutrition



BCC Bitesize



Recipes



Useful Links



Safe Sleeping

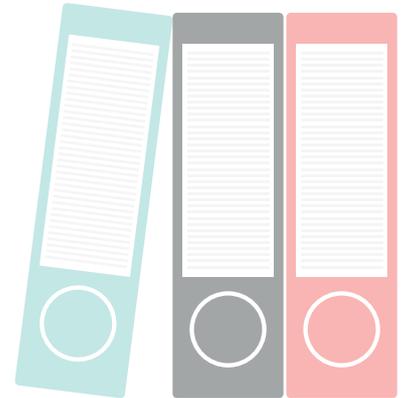
WHY DID WE CHOOSE CONNECT CHILDCARE?



Connect Childcare have been in the industry for over 15 years, they have also won a number of awards and are loved by over 2,200 nurseries, 77,000 practitioners & 150,000 parents.

We chose Connect Childcare because we want to:

- Ease the burden of paperwork
- Keep our data super secure
- Ensure our staff are supported



EASING THE BURDEN OF PAPERWORK

We understand that the burden of paperwork can be overwhelming and can cause high levels of stress among childcare workers.

We want to ease the burden.

We can't remove the burden of admin work completely, but we can take advantage of modern technology to make it quicker and easier.

We've looked at two admin heavy, time-consuming processes and how a good software system can help to reduce unnecessary admin time.



Daily Diaries

If each daily diary takes 5 minutes to complete and there are 40 children in the nursery. Your Practitioners are spending:

- 3 hours and 20 minutes a day
- 16.5 hours a week
- 3 days per month

That's 36.5 days every single year – spent just on daily diaries alone.

With iConnect you can cut this time to just 15 minutes a day, equating to 66 hours a year or 2.75 days. Which is a huge saving of 33.75 days a year!r.



Observations

If you record just one observation each week, each observation takes 15 minutes to complete and there are 40 children in the nursery.

Your Practitioners are spending:

- 2 hours a day
- 10 hours a week
- 45 hours a month

That's 22.5 days every single year – spent on observations alone. With iConnect you can cut this time to just 5 mins per observation.

Equating to a huge saving of 15 days a year.

WHY DID WE CHOOSE
CONNECT CHILDCARE?



KEEPING OUR DATA SUPER SECURE

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and recognise our responsibility for safeguarding children whilst providing good quality and effective care. Here is some information about Connect Childcare's security to put your mind at rest.



SECURITY GUIDANCE FOR NURSERIES

Take a look at our 6 tips to help keep your data secure...

- 1. **Update your computers and tablets regularly**
One of the simplest, yet most effective ways to keep your computers secure against threats is to make sure you update them regularly. Cyber criminals rely on and specifically target people who do not update their software, especially as these updates contain security patches to vulnerabilities. For ease of use, you can set updates to install overnight if required.
- 2. **Never reveal your password**
Cyber criminals have a lot of tricks up their sleeves in trying to part people with their usernames and passwords. This could be anything from advanced 'phishing' emails, who send dodgy emails trying to get you to sign in, to simply looking over your shoulder and looking at what you type in! Always keep your usernames and passwords secure and if you think it has been compromised, change it immediately.
- 3. **Install anti-virus solutions and keep them updated**
If a virus or malware enters your computer, an anti-virus solution can be the last line of defence between your data and cyber criminals. Employing an effective anti-virus solution can stop malware and viruses from running at all. As criminals bring out new and advanced threats, a regularly updated anti-virus is essential in keeping them at bay.

Security Guidance for Nurseries
<http://bit.ly/SecurityGuidanceForNurseries>

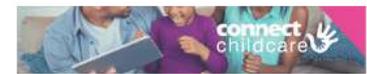


SECURITY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Take a look at our 6 tips to help keep protect yourself online...

- 1. **Update your phone / tablet OS regularly**
One of the simplest, yet most effective ways to keep your devices secure against threats is to make sure you update the operating system regularly, whether you are an iOS or Android. Cyber criminals rely on and specifically target people who do not update their software, especially as these updates contain security patches to vulnerabilities. For ease of use, you can set updates to install overnight if required.
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Security Guidance for Parents
<http://bit.ly/SecurityGuidanceForParents>



GDPR GUIDANCE FOR NURSERIES

Take a look at our 6 tips to help you understand GDPR

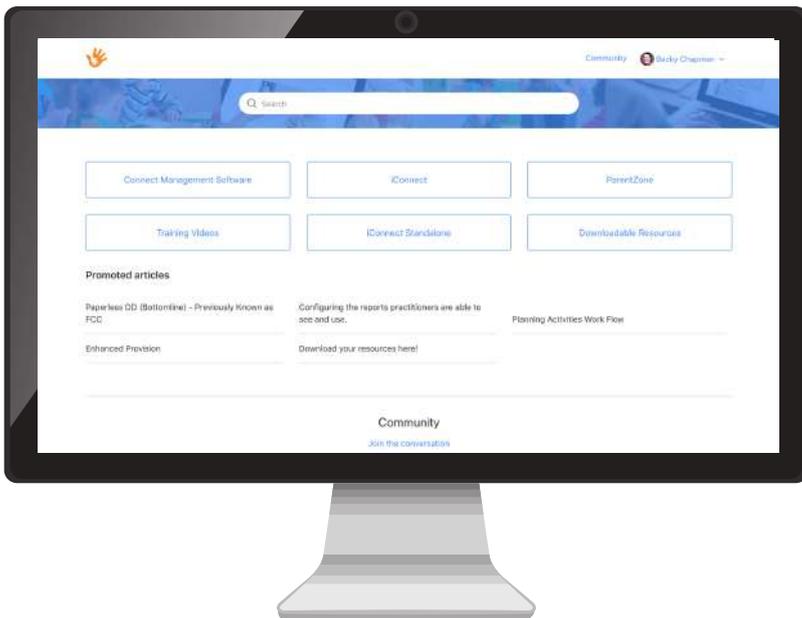
- 1. **Familiarise yourself with the legislation** - It's not that scary!
The GDPR came into force in May 2018 and much was said about the impact of it on businesses. In reality, not a huge amount has changed in terms of compliance, providing you were already in compliance with the previous Data Protection legislation. A good resource to start is the ICO website which provides lots of reading templates and some useful starting guides.
- 2. **Data Protection Impact Assessments are an essential tool for compliance**
One of the key changes in GDPR compared to previous data protection legislation is for data controllers to review all existing and new data processing, also known as Data Protection Impact Assessments. These assessments will look at the data processed and assess the impact on the rights of the data subject. This can be a powerful tool in ensuring continued compliance with GDPR.
- 3. **Keep a record of all personal data you hold**
An up to date record of all data processing should be completed by all data controllers. This shows the business (and third parties) that the company is aware of all data processing activities and any controls that are in place to safeguard that data. With this information, you can deal with any requests coming your way from data subjects.

GDPR Guidance for Nurseries
<http://bit.ly/GDPRGuidanceForNurseries>

WHY DID WE CHOOSE
CONNECT CHILDCARE?



ENSURING OUR STAFF ARE SUPPORTED



Help Desk

You can sign up to the Connect Childcare Help Desk which is packed full of useful resources to make your life easier.

By doing this you will have 24/7 access to:

- Live Chat
- Step by Step Guides
- Training Videos
- Live and Recorded Webinars
- FAQs
- New Update Information

Through the Help Desk, you can chat live with the Connect Childcare team, log support tickets, receive fast responses from the friendly customer success team, and rate the service you were given.

Once your software has been fully implemented you will be ready to take the reins and use your software successfully on your own; but your dedicated Key Account Consultant will still be there for you.

The Connect Support Consultants are available over the phone, email and chat, Monday to Friday between 8am-6pm to help you with any of your queries.

Sign up for the help desk today at:
www.connectchildcare.zendesk.com



HOW DO WE GET OUR PARENTS ON BOARD WITH PARENTZONE?



ParentZone

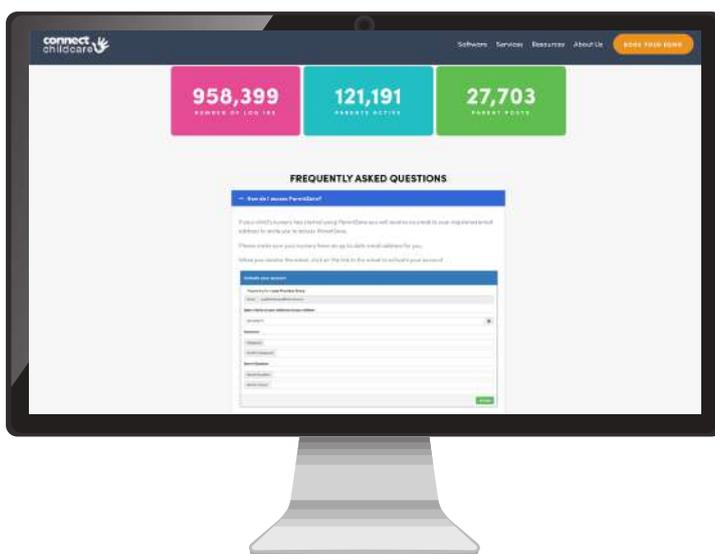


ParentZone is user-friendly and quite straight forward, but some parents can be apprehensive at getting to grips with something new, particularly at a time that may be pivotal for their families.

Holding a parents day/evening can be really beneficial. Select one member of staff to be your ParentZone ambassador and talk the parents through the app, page by page to familiarise them, let them know what to expect and iron out and log in issues then and there.

EQUIP ALL STAFF

Parents that have questions are likely to ask their key worker. You can't all be expected to be ParentZone experts, so here is all of the equipment you need.



Head to <https://www.connectchildcare.com/information-for-parentzone-users/> and share this link with your parents. It includes a downloadable user guide and some FAQs.

Why not print a copy of the user guide to keep at your setting? That way you can direct parents to the documents to answer any questions they may have.



Now that you're a fully fledged Connect Customer, Connect Childcare are giving you the opportunity to share a guest blog on their website.

It's great to share your ideas with other nurseries. If you do something exciting at your setting which you would like to promote within the Early Years Community or if you have any resources which you would like to share, please do let Connect know by completing this form:

<http://bit.ly/FeatureOnOurBlog>

Connect Childcare develop management software that improves the lives of children, globally. Through their software solutions, nurseries are becoming more efficient, enabling them to spend more time developing the children in their care. Connect Childcare are passionate about child development and support their customers to provide the very best quality childcare.



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