blossom

How to choose the best nursery management software:

A summary

1 Ask yourself: "Why am I looking for a change and what are the problems I want to solve?"

Consider the current pain points facing your nursery's:
- Owners
- Managers
- Practitioners
- Parents

2 Explore valuable features that assist with:
- Child development (e.g. **Diaries** that cover daily info like meals, activities, nappies)
- Parent communication (e.g. **Instant 2 - way messaging** on the Parent App)
- Billing and finances (e.g. **Generate and send invoices** all online)
- Staffing and occupancy (e.g. **Occupancy Planner** to see room availability)
- Reducing paperwork (e.g. **Upload nursery, staff, and child files** to the system)

3 Avoid common mistakes

Mainly, consider the longevity of the company. You will rely on this company to run your business in essence, so you need to ensure it's not going anywhere anytime soon.

4 Make sure it's easy to use

You don't want to end up with software that offers valuable features but it's too clunky or difficult to use. You want software that is modern - older systems prove more difficult to use.

5 Find out the *real* price

Think affordability versus long-term gain. Consider the return on investment by purchasing nursery management software. The right software for your nursery should save you masses on costs in relation to the fee.

6 Check for any hidden fees and costs

Some providers charge extra setup fees and/or expensive training sessions.

⭐ **Insider tip:** We suggest choosing a provider that is:
- Ideally local to you
- Invests continuously in making their software better
- Has a team of people who run the company with industry expert knowledge

7 Ensure they provide industry insight

You want your software provider to be in the know. The more they understand the industry, the chances are the better software features and general service they will provide.

8 Ask if they regularly update their software

You want to make sure that your provider updates their software fairly frequently. This shows that they:
- Take feedback from their users seriously
- Use modern tech to improve the experience of the platform
- Want to offer the best service possible

9 Research what is the public opinion

Chat to other nursery managers about what systems they use (and if they're happy with them). Read the reviews online about the provider. You could also check out Facebook groups and online discussion forums.

10 How is their customer support and training?

Ask yourself: Do they offer *proper* support and training? Try out a demo to test their customer service. What were they like? Helpful? Friendly? Attentive?

11 Ask the tough questions during your demo

Don't hold back. You need to be able to trust your provider fully.
Our suggestions:
- Make sure you understand the experience from the parent's perspective
- Ask about the company's road map (where are they headed in the future?)
- Example: Do you seek feedback from customers?
- Ask about the background of the company. How do they get knowledge? Do they outsource or have internal experts Outsourcing?

What to do now?

Take some time to let it all mull over and start writing down those pain points facing your nursery. If you have any questions (even after a demo with a prospective provider) do not be afraid to pick up the phone or pop them an email. Chances are they will be more than happy to assist you (and if they don't you can probably go ahead and scratch them off your list).

Good luck!