



# Case Study

Little Owls Nursery innovates with Sharp multifunction print, and the Interactive Touchscreen Table: Early Years Edition.

Founded by Sharon Holtby in 1992, Little Owls Nursery prides itself on offering an outstanding early years education and childcare service to parents across Scunthorpe. Beginning its life by providing services out of the Church Hall in Scunthorpe, due to growth, Sharon now manages 3 nurseries across the town, taking the number of staff in her employ from 5 to 30, and the number of children in her care to almost 200. The jump in staff and child numbers meant that existing print devices were unable to keep up with demand, and keeping children engaged was a key priority, so Sharp was called in.

little owls

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## The challenge

### Acquiring technology suitable for all

A constant challenge for Little Owls Nursery is ensuring that the activities programme is kept fresh and engaging. Director and Owner of Little Owls Nursery, Sharon Holtby says: "We have almost 200 children altogether across our three sites, which is a lot of children to keep busy and entertain!"

Another challenge for Little Owls is meeting and exceeding Ofsted requirements year after year. Sharon explains: "Early



years education institutes have to work to an Ofsted framework, which comprises of 7 key areas, one of which is 'understanding the world', and within that is technology. It states that children should be introduced to a breadth of technology they may encounter in later life. So for us we really wanted to bring in technology that would not only fulfil the Ofsted criteria, but also give our children a head start in using such devices before advancing to reception!"

Because Little Owls caters to children of all abilities, some with autism and learning difficulties, "the next challenge was making sure anything we introduced could be used by all of the children in our care", says Sharon. "We wanted something that could be picked up by everyone easily, including staff. Because my staff have to remain in control at all times, they can't really afford to figure out how to use a device or correct something mid-activity."

A final challenge for the nursery was with print. Sharon says: "Before we moved to our current site I was working out of a home office and was using a small desktop printer. Once we became Ofsted registered we had to evidence and document everything, so we needed something much more robust to support the entire business."

### The challenge

- The need to refresh and revitalise activities.
- Meeting and exceeding Ofsted requirements.
- Easy-to-use technology.
- Print devices struggling to keep up with demand.

### The solution

- Interactive Touch Screen Table: Early Years Edition.
- Yellow Door learning games and apps.
- Simple, intuitive touchscreen technology.
- Sharp MX-3061 multifunction print device.

### The result

- Huge improvement in literacy and numeracy.
- Good behaviour encouraged.
- Children of all abilities enjoy use of the table.
- All print needs exceeded.





## The solution

### Interactive Touchscreen Table: Early Years Edition

Sharp's first solution was to provide Little Owls with an Interactive Touchscreen Table: Early Years Edition. Entirely manoeuvrable, the device is mounted on a wheeled base and comes with a built-in battery pack. This means staff would be able to move the table between rooms so that it could be used by each age group, and not be restricted by power cables.

Furthermore, the table comes with toughened, wipe-clean, and durable safety glass, ensuring that children are safe during use. Also utilising an integrated full HD screen and the latest in Sharp's award-winning P-CAP touch technology, The device has a natural, ultra-responsive touch experience that helps children mark-make and draw.

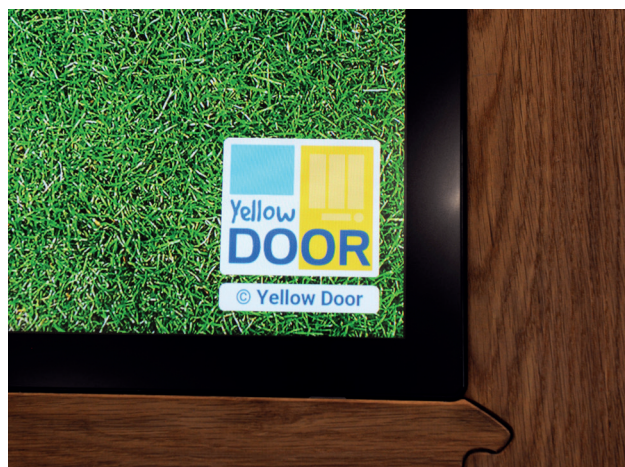
Pre-installed Yellow Door early years apps would allow for individual or group activities, whilst sensory games would be perfect for keeping children with learning difficulties engaged. These educational apps would encourage children to socialise, learn, share, and communicate, covering all early learning goals with fun educational content.

The Interactive Touchscreen Table is a powerful early years / KS1 teaching tool for game-based learning. With complete freedom to download further apps directly to the table via the Aptoide or Google Play Store. Staff would also have the ability to pin protect and restrict children to only approved apps, providing peace of mind that the children in their care are safeguarded.

Lastly, to upgrade their print functionality and efficiency, Sharp proposed installing an MX-3061 multifunction print device. Much faster than desktop models, Sharp's multifunction print range are perfect for Little Owls' daily print needs, letting them store and evidence what they need to for Ofsted, but also allowing them to produce high-quality colour posters, notices, and leaflets.

*"The touch experience is very natural and responsive, the children are able to use it straight away."*

Sharon Holtby, Owner & Director, Little Owls Nursery



*"The Yellow Door apps are amazing because you can see the children progressing in literacy and numeracy, and with gross motor skills."*

Sharon Holtby, Owner & Director, Little Owls Nursery





## The result

### Technology that helps early years learning

The most notable area where the Interactive Touchscreen Table: Early Years Edition has had an impact is in education. Sharon says: "We've been genuinely astonished at how the children have improved. The Yellow Door learning games have helped them to recognise numbers, letters in the alphabet, and their mark-making and handwriting is neater, which is useful because the older children are getting school-ready. They're advancing much quicker than when we didn't have it. One of the apps gets the children to move wobbly lines, which is also fantastic for their gross motor skills."

Sharon adds: "All the staff think it's fantastic. They open apps for stories and videos, we actually use the table to monitor each child's learning journey through our learning app, so it helps us log who has done what, when, and next steps."

Furthermore, the table is helping to encourage good behaviour. Sharon says: "Our older children have a turn-taking number system which is teaching them to be patient, it's brilliant. They work together."

When talking about the durability and safety of the table, "It's not only incredibly responsive and easy to use" says Sharon, "but the reinforced glass is super handy because some of the kids when they first use it they hit it! We've had no problems at all, and with nearly 200 children using it it's safe to say its durable."

Finally, by upgrading their desktop device to a more economical MX-3061 multifunction print device, Little Owls are able to print and document what they need to. Sharon concludes: "I can't even remember how we coped with the old machines! This new device is great, it never jams, it prints quickly, and the quality is immaculate!"



*"The technology from Sharp is next level, it just works, it delivers on what we need it to, and more."*

*Sharon Holtby, Owner & Director, Little Owls Nursery*