



## STUDENT PROFILE

### STUDENT NAME

Cassie Huang

### NATIONALITY

China

### PROGRAMME

Graduate Diploma in  
Teaching (ECE) (Level 7)

### STUDY YEAR

2020

### CAMPUS

NZTC Online



## CASSIE'S STORY

### NZTC Student Success Story

#### What did you learn during your time at NZTC?

While studying for my Graduate Diploma at NZTC, I not only gained a solid understanding of early childhood education theories in New Zealand but also learned a lot about the psychological and physical development of infants and toddlers.

The course covered a wide range of topics, from teaching strategies for young children and early learning and development, to curriculum planning and assessment, and education practices based on the Treaty of Waitangi.

I especially learned a lot from the "Infant and Toddler Pedagogy" and "Early Learning and Development" courses, where I developed skills to create age-appropriate teaching strategies based on different stages of child development.

On top of that, NZTC arranged weekly placements and a major practicum, which gave me the chance to apply what I had learned in real-world teaching settings and really improved my practical skills and professional confidence.

The online platform, NZTC Online, also provided a lot of great resources and support, making it easy for me to manage my study schedule.

Overall, the year of study not only deepened my understanding of early childhood education but also built a strong foundation for my future career as a qualified early childhood teacher.

#### How did your study support your goals?

During my studies, I systematically learned the theoretical knowledge related to early childhood education and was able to apply it in real teaching practice through placements.

The program included 16 hours of practicum each week, along with three major placements, which allowed me to gain plenty of hands-on experience in real early childhood settings.

These practical opportunities not only strengthened my teaching skills but also gave me a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and daily routines of early childhood teachers.

In addition, the practicum network provided by NZTC helped me build connections with early childhood centers during my studies, laying a strong foundation for employment after graduation.

Through this combination of study and practical experience, I not only developed greater professional competence but also became well-prepared to achieve my goal of becoming a registered early childhood teacher.



## Support from Tutors and NZTC Team

Throughout my online study journey at NZTC, I truly felt the full support of my tutors and the wider college team. Whenever I had questions about my studies, I could easily reach out to my course lecturers via email, and they always took the time to answer patiently and thoroughly, making sure I understood every concept.

The Pastoral Support Team was also there to help whenever I faced personal or academic challenges, creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Whether it was health issues, family matters, or study stress, I was able to get timely support and advice.

NZTC also provided academic skills support and IT assistance, which helped me improve my academic writing and solve any technical problems I faced.

Thanks to this wide range of support, I felt secure and confident throughout my studies, which allowed me to stay focused and build a strong foundation for achieving my goal of becoming a qualified early childhood teacher.

## Most Valuable Aspects for Career

I found that many aspects of the course content were really helpful for my future teaching career.

In particular, the focus on Te Whāriki gave me a deep understanding of the core principles of early childhood education in New Zealand, such as holistic development, family and community involvement, and respect for cultural diversity. These ideas helped me learn how to better support children's overall growth in my teaching. Learning about child psychology also taught me about the different psychological characteristics children show at various stages of development, allowing me to design more targeted and effective learning activities.

With 16 hours of practicum each week and four major placements, I had plenty of opportunities to apply what I learned in real teaching environments, which really strengthened my practical skills and professional confidence.

## Memorable Moments from Practicum

During my second major practicum, I had the wonderful opportunity to work in the under-2s (baby room). It was an unforgettable experience and by far the most enjoyable practicum I had.

The whole team at the center, along with my Associate Teacher, gave me incredible support. They not only guided me patiently but also generously shared their teaching experiences and knowledge.

Over those four weeks, I learned so much practical knowledge and grew a lot, both personally and professionally. Their support made me feel more confident when facing challenges and helped me develop a much deeper understanding of what infants in the under-2 age group truly need.

In the end, I received recognition from the center manager and was even offered a job after graduation, which was a huge encouragement for me.

This experience not only strengthened my professional skills but also reinforced my commitment to a career in early childhood education.



## Motivation as a Student Ambassador

I'm very aware of how important this learning experience has been for both my career and personal growth. After gaining my registration, I wanted to give back to my college and help future students who are interested in early childhood education better understand this career path. That's why I actively applied to become a student ambassador for NZTC. In this role, I had the chance to interact with students from all around the world, answering their questions about the course, life in New Zealand, and career development.

Through these conversations, I realized that being a student ambassador isn't just about sharing information — it's also about offering support and encouragement.

I especially enjoyed sharing my own experiences to help students plan their futures with more confidence. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to serve as a student ambassador.



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## Impact of NZTC Qualification

After graduating from NZTC, I obtained my Provisional Registration as an early childhood teacher. This qualification was my ticket into the early childhood education industry, as most centers prefer to hire registered teachers.

As one of New Zealand's oldest and largest early childhood teacher training colleges, NZTC is highly respected in the industry. Many early childhood centers prefer to hire NZTC graduates because they are known for their strong professional knowledge and hands-on experience.

After completing two years of work, I successfully moved from Provisional Registration to Full Registration. This achievement not only recognized my professional abilities but also laid a strong foundation for my future career development in education.

Sometimes I would receive positive feedback from parents, saying how happy they were that their child could recognize letters or write their own name — it made me really happy to know my teaching and activities were making a positive impact on the children.

Through these experiences, I became even more determined to teach children more knowledge. Since early childhood education is mostly play-based, I started to feel that I wanted to become a primary school teacher to provide a more structured and systematic education.

Right now, I'm working as a primary school reliever, gaining experience by doing relief teaching at different schools, and working toward securing a full-time position.

## First Steps After Graduation and Finding My First Teaching Role

After finishing my final course, I waited for my completion letter and transcript, and then quickly applied for my teacher registration through the MOE website.

At the same time, I started job hunting by handing out my CV to early childhood centers near my home — I just walked in and dropped off my resume, then waited to hear back. I ended up interviewing with three centers and was very lucky to receive job offers from all three, as there was a big shortage of early childhood teachers at the time.

In the end, I chose to work at a center under BestStart Educare, which is the largest early childhood education group in New Zealand. My role was as a registered preschool room teacher.

I think **being proactive and brave** in looking for opportunities is really important — you can apply through center websites or check Education Gazette for job openings.

## NZTC Skills in Primary Education

NZTC taught me how to become a professional teacher — from designing lesson plans and learning activities, to communicating effectively with colleagues, students, and parents, to building strong relationships with children, and managing a classroom.

All of these skills have been incredibly useful.

During my year of study, I went from knowing very little to being able to handle many different situations confidently, thanks to the professional training and hands-on practice I received through my courses and placements.

In the same way, as I transition into primary education, I can apply the skills I learned at NZTC to my daily teaching and school life, and work towards becoming a great primary school teacher.

## Motivation for Transitioning to Primary Teaching

First, I learned that with our Full Registration, we're actually qualified to teach in primary schools as well. Also, because I had been working with the 4–5-year-old age group for the past few years, I had some experience introducing basic literacy, numeracy, and Māori language during activities and mat times. For example, we would teach the ABCs, help children learn to write their names, count from 1 to 20, and sing popular Māori songs.

## Advice for Future Students

If you're genuinely interested in the early childhood education field and are committed to completing your studies, I believe our school is the right choice for you. Graduates from NZTC are highly employable and are able to find jobs.

Our academic program is demanding, and the range of knowledge you need to learn is broad. It requires self-discipline and dedication to study, as well as the ability to follow the school's timetable for revision, preparing assignments, and attending tutorials.

You'll also need to complete placements in early childhood centers, and this requires a positive attitude toward learning and a commitment to doing the work seriously.

If you can do all of this, I highly encourage you to apply to our school!

**CASSIE IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.**

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