



## STUDENT PROFILE

### NAME

Fathima Nuzha  
Ahamed Saheel

### NATIONALITY

Sri Lanka

### PROGRAMME

Diploma in Early Childhood  
Education and Care (Level 5)



Bachelor of Teaching (Early  
Childhood Education) (Level 7)

### Duration

3 years (Full-time)

### Credits

360



## FATHIMA'S STORY

### NZTC Student Success Story

#### 1. What made you interested in Early Childhood?

After my first daughter was born, I started reading about child psychology and became deeply curious about how children grow and learn. This growing interest inspired me to work in a Montessori setting for three years, where I gained hands-on experience and realised how passionate I was about early childhood education. I then decided to pursue further study to deepen my knowledge. At the same time, it had always been my dream to come to New Zealand and learn about the Te Whāriki curriculum, which I find incredibly unique and special in its holistic approach to early childhood education.

#### 2. Can you tell us a bit about your learning journey at NZTC?

I did my Level 5 online while I was still in Sri Lanka, as I couldn't come here straight away. In 2023, I came to New Zealand to start Level 6. Now I'm in my final year of the three-year Bachelor's programme. We have six placements — two in out-of-home centres and four in home centres. I had missed two placements during Level 5, so I completed those after arriving. So far, I've done four, with only two more to go! The placements have been really helpful for applying what we learn in real-life settings.

#### 3. How flexible is the study structure at NZTC?

It's quite flexible, especially with family and work. I attend online tutorials and did my Level 5 fully online when I was in Sri Lanka. For Level 6, I went to campus every Wednesday. Now in Level 7, everything is online, which helps me manage my time better.



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#### 4. What do you think of your lecturers at NZTC?

I've had amazing support – especially from Marjolein Whyte. She supported me through tutorials and practicums. Always helpful, always kind.

*“Being both a mother and an educator, I grow alongside the children I teach. It's not just teaching, it's learning too.”*

#### 5. How did you balance study, work, and family life?

It's all about time management. I work, study, and care for my family. It's busy, but I make it work. You just need to stay focused and use your time well.

#### 6. Where do you work now for your Practicum?

I work in the baby room at a centre in Glen Eden. It's my first time working with babies, and I've learnt a lot. The centre is very multicultural, and I feel really welcome. No one judges how you dress or anything like that — people are just really respectful.

#### 7. Did you come to New Zealand alone at first, or with your family?

My immigration advisor suggested I settle in before bringing my family. I came on a student visa and lived on my own for around 14 months. After Level 6, I applied for my husband and kids to join me. He's on a full-time work visa and the kids are on student visas. Now that we're all together, it feels much easier.

#### 8. What are your future plans after completing your degree?

Once I finish Bachelor, I'll apply for the post study work visa. I hope to work in an accredited centre and eventually apply for PR. Long term? I'd love to own my own centre one day – that's my dream!

#### 9. What advice would you give to international students?

Just go for it! The journey won't be easy, but it's absolutely worth it. NZTC has been such a supportive place for me – the structure, the tutorials, the placements – everything helps you grow as a confident teacher.



**FATHIMA IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.**

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