

Studying early childhood vs Being an educator

When you are studying, particularly when you are on prac, there are certain requirements that make your work assessable to prove that you have the knowledge and skills. However these are often quite different to the real world of working in a job as an educator and this is worth reflecting on...

Student

There is limited time to complete the workload so often planned experiences are completed after only just meeting a child.

You only have snippets of information and not a lot of time to gather it from families who do not have relationships with you.

It can take a long time to form secure relationships with children, without these it can be difficult to know their needs and interests.

The amount of documentation to plan and observe during prac is vast because it needs to show you have certain skills and knowledge.

Your knowledge of experiences to plan can be limited and you may rely on structured options found online to meet the assessment.

It is hard to fit in with a team temporarily while on prac and therefore you may need to do a lot of the work independently.

Educator

There are no deadlines for assessments so you can spend time familiarising yourself with children and resources.

You have access to all information about the child and are forming relationships with families to continue to gather information.

Building secure relationships over time allows you to know the child's cues, plan to their needs, and give them a voice.

Every service plans and documents in their own way and this may be quite different to how you studied.

The longer you have been working you build your knowledge and can plan holistic, child led and meaningful experiences.

When you are part of the team fulltime you can share ideas and knowledge and support children in a deeper way.

