

Personal Statement

Looking back I would have never imagined I would be here. My decisions and education have all evolved around experiences and things I have learned along the way. Right from high school I knew that I wanted to work with children, my work experience hours were spent at Totem Daycare in Aldergrove. This was the first teen mom daycare program at a high school and the experience was so rewarding, I knew I wanted to work in childcare.

Straight out of high school I took a job as a nanny; this gave me the opportunity to work with three beautiful children aged four, two and a nine-month-old baby. I enjoyed watching them grow and all their changes they were so much fun and the experience was so gratifying that I wanted to move further in this field so I began taking night school courses to work on my Early Childhood Education. This was a very interesting few years; I was offered a job to join a team at a group daycare and was so excited by the opportunity to work with such a large group of children.

During my time at the child care setting I had opportunities to work with preschool, daycare and after school aged children it was so rewarding. I still enjoy seeing some of my first charges, who are now in high school and graduating. However, my experiences here also introduced me to the world of children with special needs and this became my new passion. I again began taking night school classes to complete a diploma in Special Needs Education, through my childcare experience I was introduced to and worked with Supported Child Care and loved what they were doing for these children and all that I was learning from them as well. I was so inspired that I pursued a job opportunity with Supported Child Care at the Fraser Valley Child Development Center and I am still in this program and still loving my work with children with special needs and also supporting their families. As my knowledge began to grow I became interested in furthering my education for children under three and pursued my Infant Toddler Diploma. Each time I have felt I was completing my education and that I would be content but each time a new challenge has come to me I have felt the need to embrace it and learn all that I can. This of course has led me down the natural path to a Degree in Child and Youth Care. I wanted to further my learning and be challenged with youth a group I have very little experience with. I soon found out that the youth were not as scary as I thought they were and found my practicum placement to be very rewarding. It's hard to believe I am about to be finished my degree in CYC, if I can say I am finished... I have assured my husband, family and work that I have no desire to take more classes and that I will stop now. But I have to say that somewhere looming in the back of my head; if UCFV was to offer a Master's in Early Childhood Education I am sure I would take it.

For now I will enjoy my degree and remain with Supported Child Development, I find this work so rewarding and feel that I am doing great a job and a true asset to my team.