



Pathways to a career in Child Care and Early Learning

Early Childhood Education and Care Industry Roundtables were held across regional and remote Australia to assist the childcare and early learning sector meet the requirements of the National Quality Framework.



Joyce McLaughlin

Joyce McLaughlin

Single mother of seven, Joyce McLaughlin has finally found her vocation in the child care and early learning sector.

“I love this job; I just love seeing these young people developing personalities”.

Joyce was one of the first in her community to attend a series of JobFind Alice Springs community service training courses. The courses were conducted after the Early Childhood Education and Care Industry Roundtable forums in May 2012 which raised the need for training programmes.

After completing Certificate I and II in Community Services, Joyce moved into work experience with the YMCA where she secured an ongoing position.

The Alice Springs town camp resident then secured preschool supervisor positions at the Hidden Valley preschool and the Nathalie Gorey preschool.

“We are working with three-year-old kids, teaching them the boundaries and the expectations that they will have to live with. Simple things like washing hands before eating, putting plates away and tidying up the toys,” Joyce said.

“I drive the small bus to pick up kids from all over town and from Aboriginal Congress. We don’t just cater for Indigenous kids—each child has different skills, different personalities”.

Joyce is thriving in her new role and has already been asked to expand her duties at the preschools. She is developing her inter-relational skills so she can take on added responsibility for liaising between the preschools and local Indigenous families.

“I am still a bit shy and lack confidence to go out to meet with families on my own”.

“But if I was able to learn to develop my skills in meeting people - perhaps with a role model - I could do a better job talking to the families and telling them the benefits of sending their kids to preschool”.

“This breaks down the barriers that many Indigenous families and kids have on what school is all about, so that they don’t have a fear of going to school”.

Joyce is looking at taking her career in child care and early learning to the next level and is considering further study in the field sometime in the future.

