



Dear Family,

Thank you for your interest in being involved with our practicum programme for training students in Early Childhood Education. We have a wide network of families in Christchurch and throughout New Zealand who guide our students' comprehensive training. Our courses are approved and accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

Our students spend one third of their Stage 1 course on practicums. This time is divided into five two-week placements in different private homes, putting theory they are learning at College into practice with the guidance and support of the practicum families. During Stage 2 and 3, training is centre based.

During Stage 1, we endeavour to offer every student at least one (usually more), live-in placement away from Christchurch. This is to give the students an opportunity to experience what live-in employment would be like while they are still in training. Some students also like to spend a live-out placement in their home town, if it fits in our programme.

If your family is able to offer students a two-week learning opportunity, we would appreciate the prompt return of the enclosed Placement Family Application completed and signed so you can be considered for our roll. Please note that all information supplied will remain confidential.

Students are expected to pay any travel costs incurred on practicums. We ask families involved with live-out placements to provide lunches, (and possibly an evening meal depending on the hours of duty). Live-in families are asked to provide accommodation and meals while the student is with you. There are no other costs.

Please find enclosed 'Guidelines For Practicum Families' which should answer most questions you may have about your prospective role. If you still have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the New Zealand College of Early Childhood Education.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Duder  
**Stage 1 Practicum Co-ordinator**

Tui Summers  
**Academic Manager**