

Learning Through Advocacy

MY AECEO
EXPERIENCE

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My placement with the AECEC was an incredibly meaningful experience that deepened my understanding of the early childhood profession beyond the classroom. Being part of an organization that actively advocates for educators and works to strengthen the early years sector allowed me to witness how research, collective voices, and advocacy can influence meaningful change.

During my placement, I contributed to a research project focused on recognizing the often invisible and unpaid extra duties carried by early childhood educators. Through the development and analysis of focus groups, I had the opportunity to listen to educators from across the sector share their lived experiences. Hearing these stories reinforced how complex, demanding, and deeply relational this profession truly is, and how important it is that educators' work is recognized and valued.

This experience strengthened my belief that the voices of educators must be central in shaping policies and decisions that impact the early years sector. I learned how research and advocacy can serve as powerful tools for highlighting systemic challenges while advancing fair working conditions, professional recognition, and sustainable change.

Working alongside the AECEC team was inspiring. Their commitment to collaboration, social justice, and the professionalization of early childhood education encouraged me to think critically about my own role in the field.

This placement reaffirmed my passion for supporting educators and for contributing to conversations that move the sector forward.

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I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn from the AECEO team and from the educators who generously shared their experiences. This placement strengthened my commitment to advocating for a stronger, more equitable early years system, one where the work of early childhood educators is visible, respected, and valued.