Grooming the next generation is not an easy task. Follow Asian International College alumnus Yvonne Tan, Senior Principal of Learning Vision @ Work, to see what it takes to develop young lives daily.

Yvonne usually starts off her day by welcoming the children who arrive at the centre from 7 a.m. onwards. To ensure the little ones get proper nutrition, Yvonne oversees the daily lunch menu. Meal times also provide her with the opportunity to bond with the kids.

A part of Yvonne’s day is spent updating parents on their child’s progress. Yvonne gets her updates on the children during the monthly teachers’ meeting. Teachers with specific concerns also approach her on a one-on-one basis to get her advice on handling difficult situations.

Yvonne makes it a point to participate in the children’s lessons, which typically involve an interactive mix of teacher guidance, games and reading.

Working in the early childhood education (ECE) sector was a mid-career switch that Yvonne made, having previously been an IT salesperson, when she saw an opening for an IT educator in a preschool. She has not looked back since. Numerous incidents have reaffirmed her career decision. These include little notes of appreciation from parents as well as the opportunity to form solid friendships – including one with a parent whose daughter is now in college.

Having been in the industry for 17 years, Yvonne says she feels delighted whenever her students achieve and master specific developmental milestones. Aside from education issues, Yvonne also needs to be a good listener who can direct parents with problems to the appropriate resources and relevant authorities.

There have also been many changes made over the years to the preschool industry – standards have evolved and become more rigorous. This is why Yvonne pursued her ECE degree and WSQ Adopt the Early Years Development Framework at the Asian International College. The programmes allowed her to enhance her existing knowledge in curriculum development, centre management and leadership techniques, and upgrade her skills in caring for children below three.

Dear Aspiring Teacher,
While you need to love children, the job is more than just fun and games. Educators have to be able to be firm and guide kids through the consequences of their actions. Being able to network well with parents is also important.

Keen on finding out more about a career in the ECE sector? Contact Asian International College (AIC) at 6336 8335 or visit www.aic.edu.sg for more information.