

Catriona, from Ireland

Hello, my name is Catriona and I am 31 years of age. I live in the west coast of Ireland. My college life began in 1998 when I was 21yrs of age. I had worked in some crèches and playschools in Galway city and became very interested in Montessori's method of teaching young children. After some research, I began a diploma in Montessori Humanities that included special education and child psychology modules which I enjoyed. It was a part-time over 5years and very costly. So, I had to work to pay my way through college which was tough. Throughout the diploma, I did work experience in Montessori Schools. In 2004, I had my children, twins, a girl and boy with my great partner. I choose to be a stay at home mum which meant putting my academic life on hold for now. This choice was easy for me to make and I feel blessed to have done so. When my children turned 2years of age in 2006, I heard about a Special Needs Diploma at Muintearas which I was lucky to get onto. This had a very different feel for me as I didn't have to pay for it, I felt lucky. We completed the diploma in May 2008 and then graduated in August 2008. I have enjoyed it so much and have made lots of friends. My future now is to bring my Montessori to a degree level and maybe do resource teaching. I have some experience with working with Autism and would like to do a course in autism in the future. Without my wonderful family who have supported me wholly and loved me unconditionally throughout this process, it would never have happened.