

The Report about My New Zealand Experience

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1. Purpose

To get confidence to communicate in English as an English teacher in Japan.

2. Place

New Zealand

Beststart Lynmore, Mokoia Intermediate School, Rotorua Lakes High School, and Lynmore Primary School

3. Date

From August 10th, Saturday, 2024, to August 16th, Friday

4. What I thought from this experience

Today, I will write two things connected to my purpose for joining this experience. This was the first chance to study abroad. I wanted to challenge studying abroad with my own English skill, but I also had anxiety about my English skill. That's why I haven't studied abroad before. I'd like to write about what I felt and thought through this experience.

What I felt through this experience as an English teacher in Japan

① Communication with people in New Zealand

During this experience, Lisa who works in Lynmore Primary School took care of us. She is active and kind. I wasn't stuck to communicate with people who live in New Zealand during my stay. It is not because of my English skill, but the kindness of people in New Zealand. They tried to get our message however poor our English skill. When we couldn't send the message correctly, they tried to understand our message and asked us many times. On the other hand, if we couldn't get their message correctly, they told us in other words, or they told us again more slowly. I think these are communicative competences.



↑ when I show Lisa the video about Japanese foods

I try to set two points: the purpose of communication, the situation of the communication, when I manage my English class. Through communicating with people living in New Zealand, I realized that it is important to be motivated to communicate, such as “we want to know each other more deeply” or “I want to tell my own information in more detail”. To say honestly, I think how someone's English grammar knowledge was good, they can't communicate in English without their motivation to understand each other. I think anyone

can learn English if they want to know it more or want to learn English again. The most important thing about foreign language education for young learners is to tell the goodness of being interested in others and the value of English as a tool for our better understanding.

② Māori Culture

One more thing which I felt from this experience was the difference of education about culture. In New Zealand, there is a traditional culture, Maori. It has remained in Rotorua, which we visited. We could see a lot of Maori culture and Maori language at the schools in Rotorua. When the students held the welcome ceremony, they played Kapa Haka, and we joined the class to practice Kapa Haka. In addition, we could see the instruction in Maori to children. In New Zealand, there are “Te Kohanga Reo”. These



↑ the class about Maori culture

are daycare centers where they can speak Maori language only. On the other hand, there are some children who have roots from other countries or other cultures, we can call it a multicultural society. I was really impressed about how almost all the children respect Maori culture, and they love it. These days, Japan tries to do multicultural education and culture diversity education. I felt strange because we sometimes heard “Let’s respect other cultures!”. I guess we must understand and respect our own culture before respecting other cultures. No one can respect others without respecting themselves. I am an English and Japanese teacher in Japan. I loved Japan before this experience. However, I love Japan more than before. I think Japanese language and Japanese culture is very unique and attractive. I want to understand my own culture and to respect it as an English teacher at first. And I want to explore how to teach culture and cultural understanding and to try them.

5. Finally

This chance was a memorable event for my teaching life because I could meet many people. I have worked for three years as a teacher. In other words, I have many years to improve my own teaching skill and will meet many children in the future. I will use this experience to be a better teacher. I want to say thank you to everyone who gave me such a chance. Also, I want to say thank you to the people who met me in New Zealand, such as Ms. Hinei, Lisa and her family, and Yumiko. I want to go back to New Zealand someday.



↑ with students we joined