

Tina – Aged 29 – Mother of Ben aged 9 and Sophie aged 5
Training year 17-18

Tina had been helping out in her children's school and had enjoyed working with the team and the children. Her partner worked full time, but they needed to improve their income whilst balancing the needs of the family.

Tina had studied for a degree in Child Development part time in the years since Sophie was born and completed her degree 8 weeks before starting the programme. Tina was hard working but also worried about how she was going to manage the training.

“The SCITT were great, they thought of everything and tried to put me in schools that were close to Sophie and Ben's school. They also spoke to my placement school to help them understand the restrictions of drop off and pick up times at their school. The placement school agreed to my arriving slightly later in the morning to enable this and I quickly became good at marking at lunch and working with the class teacher as soon as the children left at 3.30pm. It wasn't easy...there were a few days when the children were ill and couldn't go into school, but I was allowed a few days off for this, and with help from my Mum and Dad, we managed to get through without missing anything important.”

Tina studied the Primary 3-7 route and loved the younger children. It quickly became clear that she was very good at designing provision for the Early Years class that she was training in. The class teacher and tutor gave Tina lots of opportunities for development and Tina grabbed them with both hands, working hard to make sure that the children covered everything and that all of the assessments were in place for the class.

Tina spent 6 weeks in a Key Stage 1 class, which she enjoyed. “The learning style was very different with more formal learning and I had to learn a whole new curriculum and expectations for primary. It became clear to me that I would need a morning a week in Key stage 1 when I returned to main placement to make sure that I fully understood everything. Don't get me wrong, it was a lovely school and a very well-behaved class, but I just loved the Reception aged children and couldn't wait to get back.”

Tina had fantastic references from her placement schools and completed her training at an outstanding grade, spending additional time in Key Stage 1 over the spring and summer term to develop her knowledge of the primary curriculum and different teaching approaches.

Tina was visited by the external examiner who said that it was “the best science lesson for a reception class that she had ever seen”

Tina applied for 4 jobs in her local area and was interviewed for each one. She was offered a job in a local faith school in a year 1 class. She loves it and the school loves her. Tina's placement school is hoping that one day she will be able to go back and work for them.

Names and some details have been changed to protect the identity of the person.