

Words to the world

Let me try to explain what is in my mind about my experience as an au pair. I was working as an artist in France, but something was missing. The idea of traveling was a good option, but I needed a reason. I was wondering: what is a good way to be closer to the world, to myself and to others? Kids! Children are the key to simplicity. From here, I decided to be an au pair. But where? I wanted nature and something different that I was used to seeing. Something far away, special. Aotearoa, the country of the long white cloud was the perfect destination! Problem: I'm a boy. I remember my first interview in France, the lady said: "Je suis désolée, mais pour les garçons c'est vraiment difficile de trouver une famille", which means sorry but it will be very hard for you to find a host family as a boy! I understood that this was something that needs to change. Work as an au pair has nothing to do with your gender, but more about your wish to be a window to different worlds for children. I've been living in New-Zealand for a year, more exactly in Christchurch in the South Island. I tried to meet other au pairs, but I quickly get to be just with people from France and speak only French. So I stopped the events with au pairs and I started to meet real New-Zealanders. I met beautiful Kiwi people who helped me to create a show, produce and write a script. The most important part is my host family. I feel lucky, I think that was the perfect match between us. I worked with two smart and sensitive children, they taught me how to be alive. We needed to keep the communication open and express our feelings all the time (with family meetings, etc.). Working where I was living pushed me out of my comfort zone. To find your role is not easy on both sides (as an au pair and as a host mom or host dad). We have to explain to future generations of au pairs that being a part of this wonderful adventure is a clever way to grow up and open your mind, but it's not an easy job! You have the responsibility of children's brain as an au pair, which is a huge thing. If I'm here, writing my short essay about my experience, is thanks to my host family. I was not alone in the house, there were five people working very hard to make a fair situation for everybody.