It was the year 2009 when Hui Wen took a bold step of resigning from her well-paid auditor job of five years at a Big Four accounting firm to pursue her passion of being a preschool teacher.

Realising that she could not see herself continuing her career as an auditor in the long-run, she enrolled herself in an apprentice programme with AIC and preschool Learning Vision, and graduated with a Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education – Teaching.

Teaching since January 2012 at Learning Vision @ Raffles Place, this determined lady has not looked back since embarking on that life-changing move three years ago. “It was a love for teaching and children that first motivated my career switch into early childhood education”, she explained.

Satisfied with her job, Hui Wen says that the whole experience has been fulfilling. “I’m happy to have made the move. I have to say there’s a lot more accomplishment and job satisfaction now as compared to working for a big corporation where everything is about numbers, over-time and KPIs. As a teacher, it’s very enriching and rewarding to see a child reach their development goals. There’s also more work-life balance.”

Impressed with the work-study model of the AIC programme, Hui Wen shared how she benefited from the theory and practical sessions. “The programme gave me good grounding in early childhood education because I spent three weekday afternoons attending classes at AIC and worked the remaining weekdays at Learning Vision. This allowed me to put into practice what I’ve learned in the classroom and gave me an understanding of what goes on in the actual workplace, so you know what to expect after graduation.”

While juggling studies and work concurrently is no easy feat, Hui Wen managed to pull it off so well! In fact, she emerged as a merit winner and was among the top 10 per cent in her cohort. “I’ve spent my weekends wisely and worked on my assignments portion by portion, instead of leaving everything to the last minute.” In addition, she also credited her Learning Vision colleagues for their “tremendous support and understanding”, which helped her achieve good results.

While not everyone may be brave enough to follow Hui Wen’s footsteps, Hui Wen feels that it is all about realising what your aspirations are. “Consider what it is that you really want and be clear on what your expectations are. Children will be children, so you have to be mentally prepared to deal with possible tantrums, but ultimately it really is a profession that inspires and you get a lot of job satisfaction.”