

Anna



Deciding to spend some time abroad in another family as an au pair was probably the biggest decision I made in my life till now: Leaving home for some place you don't even know what to expect of, being apart from your family for a long time, starting a life on your own and having the big responsibility of looking after kids....

Well, making such big plans, it's normal to look for some support: an au pair agency. Knowing that someone has been talking to the people you are going to live with in person and also knowing that you got someone to turn to, when you are not doing good in that foreign country you decided on, made me, and especially my parents, feel far more confident about this time away.

If you think after having made the decision of being an au pair for some time, you JUST need to find the right family, definitely skip that „just“. There seemed to be hundred of agencies to choose from and there is no recipe what to look for. As well as lots of families....

To help you deciding I am going to tell you my story after I decided to make the run with this agency (actually I decided for an agency at home that worked together with Linguavision as their partner in New Zealand)...

After getting all the references I needed and sending in my application, I got a call from my agency a week later. They had studied my application and wanted to make some personal contact. They informed me about the job of an au pair and told me what is going to happen next: they were going to send my application to their partner in New Zealand and were going to talk to (Linguavision) to see if there is any suitable family that fits my expectations.

Afterwards Sophie from Linguavision started mailing me: First to make some general contact and to get to know me a bit-my wishes, my motivation and to inform me about some last details -and later, to actually suggest me some families. While having been offered several families and having been in contact with some of them, I talked to Sophie on the phone: On the one hand, it was a chance for her to get to know me better and to talk to me in person about some family offers, she could even make up her mind about how advanced my English was (which is quite important for some families, especially for ones with young kids), on the other hand, it made me feel even more secure and I could be sure, that my points of view were understood the right way as a mail doesn't always reflect your mood and feelings.

Well, some time went by and I was offered the family I actually spent my months abroad with: Two kids of the age of 6months and 18months at that stage. After being in contact with them for some time, I decided that I found the right ones and luckily, they wanted me as well.

So, now it's up to you. This is how my story of 6 months in New Zealand started. **All I can say, I would always do it again!**