



# Meet The Graduate – Nicole Williams

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## Video Transcript

*This transcript is of Edition #07 – How do I cope with a challenge?*

Music to start		
Question 1:	[Visual]	Introduce yourself and tell us where you work
Nicole:	00:01	My name is Nicole Williams and I'm a grade two teacher. I've Berwick Fields Primary School.
Question 2:	[Visual]	How did you first day go?
Nicole:	00:16	My first day in the classroom was really, really fast. It was really fun and exciting. I was really nervous to come into the classroom. It was a bit of a shock to think, this is my class and my grade and I'm the only adult here, you know, this is how it's going to be from now on and I quickly became comfortable with it and it felt natural to be in the classroom and took all my practice over at my placements into place and get to set up my own kind of routines and procedures and yeah, it was really, really fun and everything pretty much went to plan as well as great.
Question 3:	[Visual]	What were your expectations about starting and what was different?
Nicole:	00:57	So, I guess my expectations were that I would have heaps of time to get all my planning done, make all my resources and create my classroom and set up how I want. But in reality, it was completely different, you don't realize the how fast the time goes when you're actually in the classroom with the students. I feel like when I first started planning I would over plan for my

sessions and it's completely unpredictable that how fast, how fast the kids will grasp the concept or the questions that they'll ask , or how are you willing to take them to set up the activity at their table? So, I feel like my expectation was completely different when I was in the shock of being in the classroom and having to cut back on my planning and finding time to make sure everything would run smoothly as well.

Question 4: [Visual] What has been the best thing in school so far?

Nicole: 01:46 So I think the best thing that's happened at school so far is receiving feedback from a lot of my peers, mentors and principal staff as well. I feel like once they gave me that reassurance that I'm in the right place and I'm good at what I'm doing, it makes me feel like I want to be here more and just to continue with my practice and improve on everything that I'm doing in the classroom and bettering everything that I'm doing for my students as well.

Question 5: [Visual] What is the best thing that has happened in the classroom?

Nicole: 02:14 So, the best thing that's happened to our classroom so far was when we held our Mother's Day, afternoon. I got to meet pretty much all of the parents that I hadn't met already from different interviews with them and it was such great feedback to have parents come up to me and tell me how much their student loves the school and loves coming to my class and it just, it warmed my heart and makes you feel so rewarded about, you know, the changes that you can make to a student's attitude toward school just by being there. And I think it's really important to remember that even when you have bad days yourself, it could be a good day for a student just because you gave it a little bit of attention. Yeah, it was really good.

Question 6: [Visual] What has been a challenge and how did you overcome it?

Nicole: 02:56 So, a challenge for me was trying to make sure that I enough time to plan with prioritizing my tasks and making sure that they got the most important things done first and not pushing back everything else, but making sure that I'm scheduling in different things that would eventually help me. And as well, asking for help from my mentor and peers, I'm now feeling more comfortable with the routine that I've set in place. That

also gave me get me time, which helps me relax at the end of the week.

Question 7: [Visual] What DET resources have you found useful in your practice?

Nicole: 03:28

So, beginning in term one when I was trying to find everything that I need to plan and to make sure that my lessons addressed my students' needs, without knowing the students, it was really important to me to become familiar with the high impact teaching strategies and all through university we looked at these, but I never really understood how I would implement them in the classroom until it was up to myself to make sure I included them in our lessons. I find it very, very important to make sure that you have those different strategies so then you can understand how the students are learning and what is working, what isn't working in the classroom. And as soon as I got to understand how they learned and I want to make their learning needs, I couldn't implement whatever strategies would help me and would help them better their learning and receive those outcomes.

So, I also use the graduate teacher induction guide, which was a good resource to break down everything I should be really focusing on in different terms. It also kept me on track with things that could be accountable for and gave me checklists that I could tick off and make sure that I was meeting what I needed to do as we graduate. We also work in PLC teams here at Berwick Fields, so I've always got a group of people helping me and planning together. The grade 2 team here is amazing and it's good to have, not only one mentor, but I have lots of people giving me feedback and helping me with the planning person as well.

Question 8: [Visual] If you could go back in time, what would you tell your first day self?

Nicole: 04:55

So if I could go back in time and tell my fist they self a little bit of advice. I'd say give yourself a lot more credit for what you've done and how far you've come and it's okay if you don't get everything done that you can planned, there's always tomorrow and if not tomorrow, there's next week and the week after that as well.

Music to End