

Second shot at learning 'priceless' chance



Jess Maxted, with children Jade, 4, and Wyatt, 2, is encouraging other adults to get an education. PHOTO: MARION VAN DIJK

Jess Maxted knows first-hand how hard it is to get into a training course without any qualifications.

Although she developed a strong work ethic working fulltime from the age of 14, without having gained any NCEA credits following her dream of becoming an early childhood teacher seemed unreachable.

But through her family support service the 25-year-old mother of two was directed to Adult Learning Support parent classes, and over the past six weeks she's managed to attain enough unit standards to apply for a training course.

Having the second shot at getting her qualifications had been priceless, she said.

"I found it really hard to learn at

school.

"I grew up with no reading, no help or anything like that, just a busy family...I felt like I was stupid, so that made it really hard to work."

After having her daughter, 4, and son, 2, she said she'd realised the importance of getting an education.

"At the moment I'm teaching my daughter how to read and write, I've been reading to her since she was born, same with my son. I'm trying to get their education up now so it'll be easier when they're older," she said.

"I want them to go so far, I want them to stay in college and do what they want to do with their lives."

Jess said although she needed to get some reading glasses and get used to working on her own. she was looking forward to

starting the early childhood course.

She encouraged all her friends who had dropped out or hadn't been to school to go to adult learning classes, and some of her friends with children had signed up for the next round of parenting classes, she said.

Next week is Adult Learners' Week and Tuesday is International Literacy Day. The week celebrates all adult learning, whether it's upskilling for a job, preparing for study, improving life-skills or just for fun.

Each day there'll be adult classes at Nelson libraries covering a range of activities, including Te Reo, cake decorating and romance writing. On Thursday Adult Learning Support is hosting an open day and morning with a giant scrabble board in Montgomery Square. For a class timetable or more information visit nelsonpubliclibraries.co.nz