TAFE Western is forging an important partnership with Wuxi International Childcare Centre that is delivering exciting, mutually beneficial results.

Ten TAFE Western Outbound Mobility students and Dubbo College Children’s Services Teacher Sally Devinish have returned from spending time working at the Wuxi International Childcare Centre.

The visit enabled the students to learn important work practices and skills that will ensure better care for children in Australia. “There were some beneficial relationships developed between staff, children, families and students,” Ms Devenish said.

“Students involved in this program have developed skills that they would never have developed whilst working in Australia.”

“Students will have a deeper understanding of their own professional pedagogy, which includes how they work with children, the environments they create for the children, the structure of the child’s day and how they teach.”

“All of those who travelled to China now have experiences that they can draw on to help support families they may have in their care in Australia and from other cultures.”

TAFE Western students, Tahlia Sense from Forbes Good Start Early Learning and Samantha Murphy from Coolah Pre School, both described the trip as a once in a lifetime experience that has opened their eyes to new and improved teaching methods.

“The whole experience was amazing. It was very different and very real, but it gave me a really good idea of which direction I want to take with my teaching,” Ms Sense said.

“It was my first time overseas and the entire trip was amazing—I was very sad to leave,” Ms Murphy added.

“I loved being at the pre school, getting to know the kids and experiencing their different teaching strategies. It taught me the importance of play-based activities.”