Love in a Cold Climate: Constructions of Care, Intimacy and Love within a Contemporary Early Childhood Discourse

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‘Principled Early Years Practice: Valuing our past, Debating our present, Inspiring our future’.

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Why Love?

In this 55 minute talk my aim is to provoke your thinking about the meaning and place of love in professional roles with young children, especially our youngest citizens; infants and toddlers.
What is this Love?

I will now share some of my key ideas on Love
Love in a Cold Climate?

• Attachments are crucial to understanding human relationships (Brooks-Gunn, Sidle-Fuligni & Berlin, 2003; Melhuish, 2004; Belsky, 2007) but Attachment Theory remains controversial.

• Contemporary research draws attention to interdisciplinary studies and unresolved issues e.g. non familial care, workforce qualifications, education more important than caring.....
The Professional Love in Early Years Settings (PLEYS) research project was set up to examine how those who work in early years settings can safely express the affectionate and caring behaviours which their role demands of them. The outcome was a set of Professional Development Materials which comprise the Attachment Toolkit. If you want to find out more about the origins of Professional Love then click on the concept buttons below!
‘The Attachment Toolkit’: Developing the Practice of Love
My recent publication on ‘Professional Love’ can be found here...

Selected References


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Thank you!

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