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

*TACTYC Annual Conference
Saturday November 19, 2016*

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

*Dr Jools Page,
University of Sheffield*



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.....




PLEYS Collaborative Project

<http://professionallove.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Professional Love in Early Childhood Education and Care

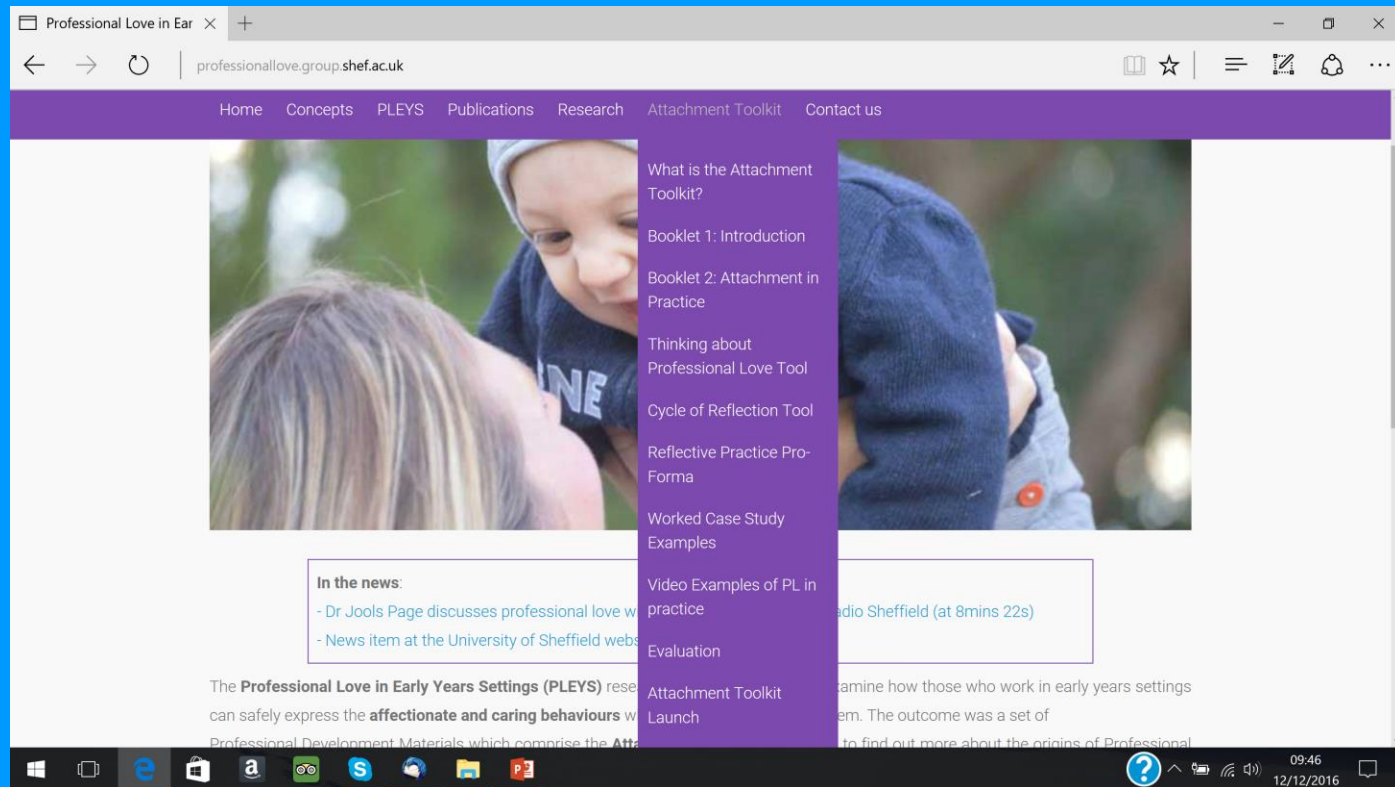
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The **Professional Love in Early Years Settings (PLEYS)** research project was set up to examine how those who work in early years settings can safely express the **affectionate and caring behaviours** which their role demands of them. The outcome 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...

Page, J. (2016) Educators' perspectives on attachment and professional love in early years settings in England. In E. J White and C. Dalli (Eds) *Under three year-olds in policy and practice. Policy and pedagogy with under-three-year-olds: Cross-disciplinary insights and innovations for educational research with very young children Series. Springer.*

The screenshot shows the Springer website interface. At the top left is the Springer logo (a chess knight) and the text 'Springer'. To the right is the website URL 'springer.com'. Below this is a book cover for 'Policy and Pedagogy with Under-three Year Olds: Cross-disciplinary Insights and Innovations'. The cover is primarily purple and red with white text. To the right of the cover, the title is repeated: 'Policy and Pedagogy with Under-three Year Olds: Cross-disciplinary Insights and Innovations'. Below the title, it says 'Series Editors: E.J. White, C. Dalli'. A paragraph of text follows, describing the book's focus on research linking child development to various disciplines. Below the text, it says 'Recently published: E.J. White, C. Dalli (Eds.) Under-three Year Olds in Policy and Practice'. At the bottom left of the screenshot, it says 'Springer books available as Printed book Available from springer.com/shop'.



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Thank you!



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To
Discover
And
Understand.