

## **Response to Dr. Jane Payler's Reflections Paper – Early Years Professional Status (EYPS): The joys of assessing!**

***Margaret Simms***

I am full of admiration for Dr. Payler and, indeed, anyone who can turn assessing into a fascinating and fun experience – and still find time to write about it! 'Early Years Professional Status (EYPS): The joys of assessing!' is a must read article especially if your prior experience of assessing has been a lot of hard work for very little reward.

The key to having fun lies surely in being part of a 'like-minded, friendly team of people 'all committed to playing a part in ensuring continued and improved quality of care and education for young children.' But despite being lots of those about, I still need convincing that assessing can be fun. Reading through the article I search *hard* to find the fun in:

'...running 'a marathon at a sprint.'?

'...racing from one exercise to the next to meet the pre-determined timetable.'

'...recording verbatim...'

'...doing it in addition to the usual day job...'

'Being squashed into the narrowest galley kitchen between the washing machine and tumble drier, next to the toilet, with knees pressed against those of interviewees ...'

I'm sorry, I really have tried but I fail to find the fun factor. Thank goodness for Dr. Payler's 'Tips for Candidates.' Assessing is here to stay; there appears to be no other way and anything candidates and colleagues can do to make this essential element of our work more fun is very gratefully received.