



CPD Soundbites in Infant Mental Health

"Soundbites in Infant Mental Health are designed to offer IMH practitioners quick CPD activities, helping busy professionals to continue to enhance their practice."



Professional Love in Early Years Settings

Many children spend a significant amount of time in the care of practitioners in a range of early years settings, where it is as important that they establish attachment relationships with their caregivers as it is with their parents. In fact, early years practitioners can provide babies who do not have a secure attachment with their primary caregiver[s], the opportunity to develop a close, emotional and trusting relationship.

The research of Dr Jools Page showed that many early years professionals are anxious about showing affection toward the children in their care, and that one in five practitioners said they avoided being alone with a child (Page and Elfer 2013).

But Jools believes that "close, intimate and trusting relationships" are essential for infants, toddlers and young children: and that In the context of education and care this is professional' love.

**But what does Professional Love
involve?**

CPD Activity

- Have a look at the blog page for Jools to find out more about what Professional Love is and how you can apply it in practice:
<https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/professional-love/>
- Read this article about **The emotional complexity of attachment interactions in nursery**

This CPD activity could contribute to your completion of the **IMH Competency Framework domains:**

Domain 1 – Infant neurodevelopment and the Primary attachment Relationship; and Domain 2 – Relationship-based practice.

References:

Page J and Elfer P (2013). The emotional complexity of attachment interactions in nursery. In: European Early Childhood Education Research Journal. 21, 4, p. 553-567.

*'Every small moment
counts in a child's early
development'*

