

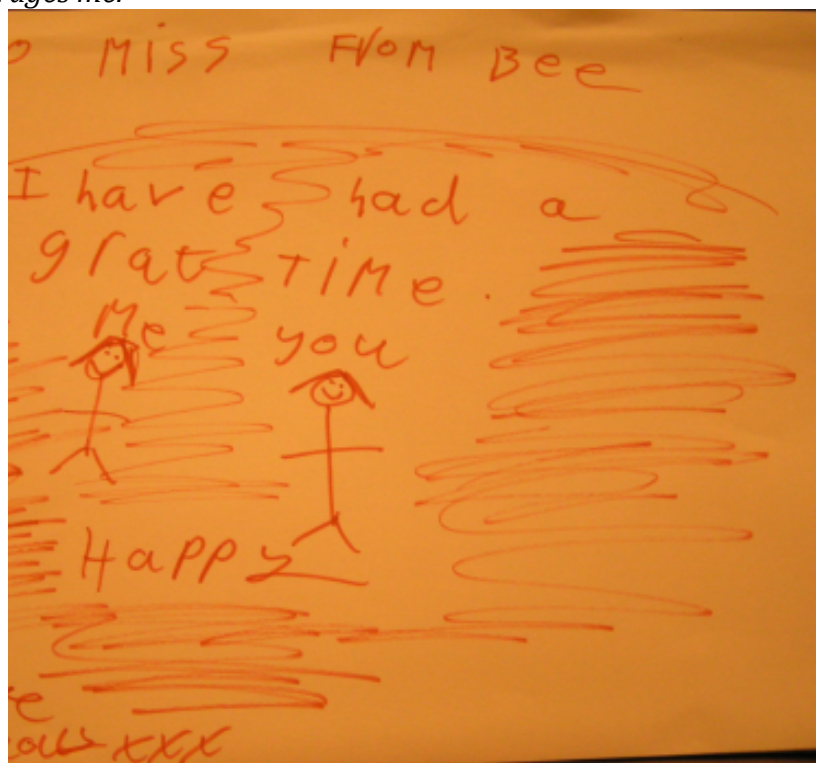
Re: How do I sustain a loving, receptively responsive educational relationship with my pupils which will motivate them in their learning and encourage me in my teaching?

by [Branko Bognar](#) - Monday, 22 February 2010, 01:40 PM

Dear Claire, I've read your paper which you sent for publishing in EJOLTS. It is obvious that you like your job and that you are eager to create a safe and educational space in your classroom for any person and particularly for your pupils. This paper radiates with positive values, and I found many interesting reflections on your practice in it. The following are my favourite:

When I mull over this question I realize that thankfully I am easily encouraged by the children and that when I feel tired or discouraged they can swiftly restore me. Recently when I returned to the classroom after lunch, having been out of school for an afternoon then the following morning, I was touched by the children's welcome, little hugs from some, one child full of news about a first visit to Beavers, another bursting to tell me about her birthday party at the weekend.

On another occasion recently I was given a scribbled picture by a little girl who was new to the school and had been very tearful in the mornings, finding it tough to leave friends in her previous school in London and move here. I had done my best to help, wiping her eyes, beginning to encourage friendships, praising her as much as possible, introducing her mum to other mums etc. and when she rather shyly thrust the picture below into my hand I knew she was over the worst. The picture shows me with her, both of us smiling, with the word "Happy" underneath. I think she will be fine and that encourages me.



You wrote: "I am using **action research** to improve my practice as an educator and would like to share my writing with others as part of an

open review process" (<http://ejolts.net/moodle/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=46>). I am wondering how you could arrange this paper to be in the form of an action research account. Your account seems to me as reflections on your practice which is written for someone who understands well your contexts. It is an excellent starting point for a more scholarly paper which needs to be structured according principles for writing an action research report (see McNiff & Whitehead, 2009).

I talked with Jack Whitehead who is eager to help you in reorganising and resubmitting this account which could be an excellent contribution to EJOLTS. I hope you will find a time to edit your promising paper that people all over the world could enjoy in your warm and empathetic teaching experiences. In addition your cooperation with Jack Whitehead could be educational not only for you, but for many of us who deal with action research. I hope you could use this forum for your cooperation.

McNiff, J. & Whitehead, J. (2009). *Doing and writing action research*. Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington: SAGE.

