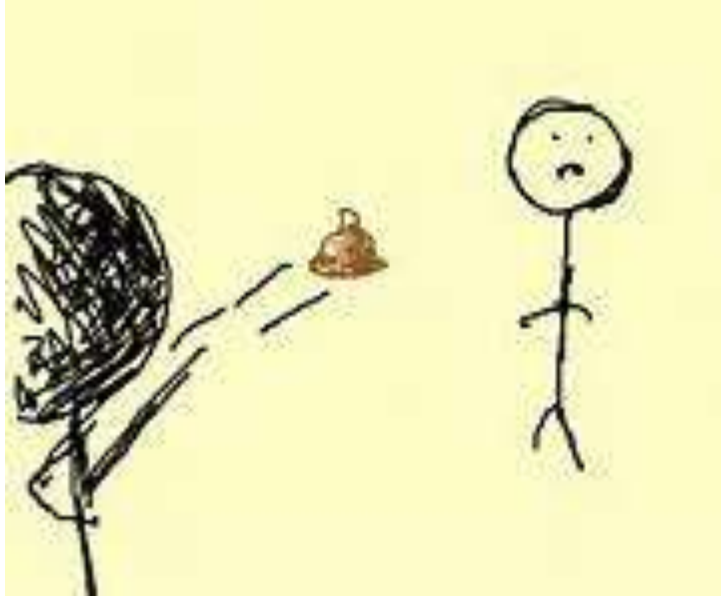


1 MANS JOURNEY TO REGISTRATION AND
THE DUNG HURLED HIS WAY



‘So you are here to fix
the photocopier?’

By a Teacher when
entering a center.

‘I donot have to listen to you as you are not a real teacher!’

By a 4 Year old boy
when asked to stop
chucking blocks.

‘This is how you do a hair tie!’

By a 4 Year old girl
when assisting her to tie
her hair.

‘Are you **Really !!** a
Teacher and **Why ??**’

By a Parent at the end of
session.

‘I **Donot** want you
changing my child as
you are a **Male**’

By a Female Parent at a
meeting.

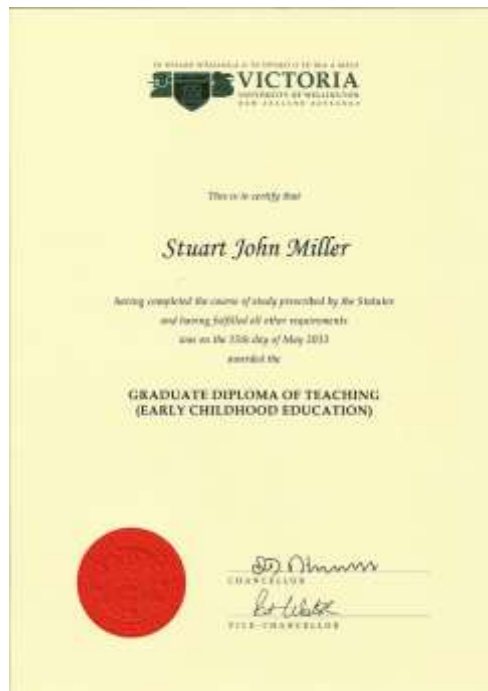
THE REASONS FOR BECOMING A MALE EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER

- Graduated 1993 with a BCA and worked in a variety of organisations. Last one was the Design Construction and Consultants Industry Training Organisation that was in the post-compulsory education sector specialising in apprenticeships in the construction domain.



- Tutored young men in college level maths as they had an interest in getting an apprenticeship and were engaged with their learning.
- These young men had left school or been asked to leave at 16 with no qualification as they were not engaged with their learning and their only interest at school was to 'Eat their lunch', 'Socialise' and 'Meet Girls'.
- Raised 2 sons and in 2014 the eldest aged 18 is in a carpentry apprenticeship and the youngest 14 is a year 10 whom dreams of being a movie maker.

- An interest in education
- Spent time at a Primary School and a EC Center.
- Met Robin Christie who said 'It really is the most magical stage of any person's development. I love it because you get to bring so much of yourself to the learning, as the whole world is the curriculum for young children.'
- Graduated in 2013 with a Diploma in Teaching – Early Childhood Teaching



THE POSITIVE SIDE TO BECOMING FULLY REGISTERED

- Making a difference in environments such as in the photo where barbwire is used to stop local yobbery climbing on the sun shade.



- Bring stories and symbols of other cultures to the environment of children.

- Have fun.



- Build a responsive + reciprocal relationship with children.
- Help children experience an equitable environment irrespective of gender or ethnicity.



THE NEGATIVE SIDE TO BECOMING FULLY REGISTERED

- The need to walk into a new center when relieving with ones registration card in front of one due to the range of reactions to ones teaching gender.



- The depressing nature of some environments such as in the photo which had plastic windows due to the local yobbery throwing bottles at the glass ones.
- Witnessing the local yobbery burning holes in the plastic windows with cigarettes.



‘Are you **Really !!** a Teacher and **Why ??**’

- The need to constantly answer this question when teaching in a center especially where they have never had a man teach there before.



‘I **Donot !!** want you changing my child as you are a **Male !!**’

- The cultural insensitivity of being told on the floor by the head teacher in front of other teachers that one was unable to do their job due to their gender



HOW TO SURVIVE DUNG BEING HURLED

- Have a clear personal philosophy as to why one is in ECE eg to make a difference.
- Develop a clear bottom line.
- Have a good Male support network.
- Sleep well and see every day as a new adventure.

- Develop responses that defuse the situation eg a parent asking why and responding 'I like playing in the sandpit'.
- Be able to step back and see the lighter side of situations – gallows humour.
- Realise one is involved in culture change and learn to not take it personally
- Keep an eye on the ball of why one is there 'To teach the under 5's' and how to duck.