

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Nanny, entrepreneur and DJ **Joss Cambridge-Simmons** tells us about his passion for helping families and how facing prejudices has driven him to succeed.

Q Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.

A My mum and dad come from Ghana and Jamaica. I was born in Hackney and raised in Islington, North London.

I run a childcare service called Jossy Care. I offer temporary, ad hoc babysitting and travel nanny services for children from birth to teens. I support parents, consult with them, speak publicly and facilitate workshops.

I have been working with children for 18 years. I support families through offering both childcare and moral support. My ethos is child-led and I work with love, care and an incredibly soft touch.

I also DJ and would love to combine both passions by doing children's parties

and starting a childcare business.

Q Did you always want to work in early years?

A In secondary school, I wanted to be an environmental health officer after watching a programme about it, so I did my work experience with Haringey Council, engaging with local businesses about health, safety and food safety. At one point I also wanted to be a crime scene investigator after watching CSI, so I studied science in college.

But I was always a nurturing soul, and my knowledge grew when my little brothers were born, and I became more in tune with babies and children as they grew. I volunteered in

one of my brothers' nurseries and, years later, I got a job in a nursery. I now run Jossy Care.

This is more than work or childcare. I genuinely love helping families find balance, promoting positive change and having fun at the same time. I have a blog about children and parenting to show my passion for child development and positive parenting.

Q What has been a challenging moment in your career?

A My work is an uphill struggle. Because I am male, it hasn't been easy to secure a business, even with all my accolades and experience. We are still in a world where I get judged because of my



gender and sometimes even my race. And childcare agencies often tell men they don't have any jobs for them. It has changed over the years, but the proportion of men in the early years is still low.

But despite being a black male in an industry mainly occupied by white women, I have still found a space and become a force to be reckoned with, and I'm now a vital voice in early years and all things childcare.

What could be deemed a challenge has turned into a life-changing career of fulfilment, joy and love.

Q What are the highlights of your career so far?

A In 2019, I won a National Diversity Award for being a positive role model, which was aired on ITV London. I have also been featured on the BBC for my work and interviewed on various podcasts and blogs around childcare, mental health and how I put love into what I do. I'm proud that my work has also been featured in the Hackney



Gazette, Time Out magazine, on local radio and on various social media platforms.

Our most significant achievement is teaching love and constantly connecting with communities to teach love-led childcare and safety.

Q What are your ambitions for the future?

A I would like to start some long-term campaigns about men in childcare roles, whether in a nursery or nannyng.

I want to change the narrative for the next generation. It's about something other than money for me – it's about creating a change that can affect generations to come. I also love supporting families and

looking after children – I want more men to know that they can do this too.

I dream of teaching little children how to DJ and starting a charity for young children's mental health. I also want to write a book about love and what it can do

for your mind, soul, dreams and life. I also created children's books and a documentary about change, diversity, and discrimination.

I could talk forever about my passions and how they all interlink. It's never been about me or money but about change.

Q What is your advice to someone coming out of education who wants to move into the early years but is unsure which path to take?

A My advice would be to follow your heart, get all the experience you can, find a course in the early years that interests you, find a village, mentor, and support system, and be ready to learn more than you teach. 