

Helle Jensen's words for Jesper Juul at his birthday Odder, 18.04.2018

Dear Jesper

Congratulations! I know a bit about how much it has cost you to get so far, and today I want to say only a few words about your impact on the world.

I very often when traveling through Europe in your foot prints meet people who want to share with me the great importance you have for them – for many both in their private as well as in their professional life.

In Zagreb this spring I really felt the gratitude of the people towards you when doing a speech for not only the Croatians but also for guests invited from Serbia and Slovenia. They are still very much aware of that your work with equal dignity and the respect for the development of self-esteem in every single child is what can help them to keep on the track in a time with heavy right wing and nationalistic winds blowing over Europe.

In the German speaking countries I especially feel the impact of the importance of the movement from obedience to responsibility. I just came from there yesterday evening and when reading the magazine Brigitte I see that they speak about you as the family therapist of our time who has had the greatest impact on the development all over Europe. And I think that I can add through over the world, when I now see, how literature about the Danish way of Parenting is popular all over – literature that is built on your thoughts as they have become common knowledge for everybody in Scandinavia.

Right now I'm doing an EU project called HandinHand together with researchers from universities in different countries, and they want it to be clear, that the project also is built on your ideas and they know that exactly that can open the doors into the school systems – I think this is good to know, since you always have been struggling with this part of the population – so to say..

But also here in Denmark I appreciate your work – especially in our Society Børns Livskundskab, where we hope that your health will allow you to participate in the years to come.

In the German magazine Brigitte you are quoted for saying that you have gained absolutely nothing out of your illness – and I can for sure follow that – and at the same time I'll say that I have got something – the possibility to meet with you more often – to share thoughts and to work on projects together – to bring news from your friends abroad – and to drink a good cup of coffee from your Swiss machinery. And although we have spent a lot of time together in silence I for sure enjoy that you have got your voice back and also your ability to give a comment that is just to the point!

So dear Jesper – thank you for fighting – and for staying here, I and we need you!
SKÅL og Tillykke!