Janet Moyles’ contribution to the international early years sector, spanning 42 years, is most closely associated with two things: play and professional development. With more than 75 publications to her name, perhaps the most iconic of all is her book *Just Playing? The role and status of play in early childhood education*. Published in 1989, this pivotal book was one of the first of its era to fully examine the central role of play in young children’s learning and development and has been translated into several languages, including Chinese and Hebrew.

With the current formalised pressures on young children’s time, the book continues to be as important today as it was when it was first published. Janet started the research for it while she was still a head teacher. In fact, she had really started her research based on observations of her own children sever-

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