Dr Glenda Walsh, Stranmillis University College and Dr Jacqueline Fallon, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment in the Republic of Ireland

Dr Glenda Walsh is Head of Early Years Education at Stranmillis University College, a College of Queen’s University Belfast. Her areas of expertise focus on play and playful pedagogies in early childhood and primary education. She has been involved in many major research projects such as the longitudinal evaluation of the Early Years Enriched Curriculum Project in Northern Ireland that has guided the course of the Foundation Stage of the revised Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum and she also headed a major project on examining pedagogy in Early Childhood Education for the Department of Education in the Republic of Ireland. Her journal articles and book chapters reflect her interest in curriculum and pedagogy, focusing in particular on resolving the dilemmas associated with play as learning in practice.

Dr Jacqueline Fallon is a Director, Curriculum and Assessment with NCCA, leading teams and projects in the Early Childhood and Primary areas. She has worked as a primary teacher specialising in the early years of primary, as a lecturer in Education in initial teacher education, and with the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education where her work included the development of Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education. Her doctoral research focused on teachers’ beliefs about play pedagogy.