The twentieth century was a time of great change in early years education. This well-illustrated book charts both the progress made and the obstacles overcome in the course of the century, as the nation battled its way through world wars and depressions. As the century opened, the use of Froebel’s kindergarten methods infiltrated more infant classrooms. The emergence of psychology as a discipline, and especially its work on child development, was beginning to influence thinking about how infants learn through play. While there were many teachers who maintained Victorian approaches in their classrooms, some others experimented, were widely read and a few even travelled to the US and Europe and brought new ideas home. As well, there was increasing political support for new approaches to the ‘new education’ ideas at the turn of the century.

It’s an interesting story. The author discusses changes in school buildings, teaching practice and teacher education, the teaching of reading and other curriculum areas, Maori education and the emergence of kohanga reo and the teaching of Maori language in primary schools. Along the way we meet a range of individuals, including C.E. Beeby, Sylvia Ashton-Warner, Gwen Somerset, Don Holdaway, Elwyn Richardson, Marie Bell and Marie Clay and the many less well-known but significant people who worked in or influenced early years education. We also meet many well-known New Zealanders who have recounted their first days at school. This is a fascinating account of a rich history that has involved us all. And yes, school milk gets a mention.
About the Author
Helen May is the Dean of University of Otago College of Education. She began her career as a primary school teacher in the mid-1960s, worked in childcare in the 1970s, and began tertiary teaching in the 1980s. During the early 1990s she worked with Margaret Carr on the development of Te Whariki, New Zealand’s first national curriculum for early childhood education. In 1995 she was appointed to the first New Zealand professorial chair in Early Childhood Education at Victoria University Wellington and in 2005 she was appointed Professor of Education at the University of Otago. She has published six books as sole author on the history and politics of early education.

Contents
1 The Youngest Children at School
2 Rethinking the Early Years, 1900s–1920s
3 Experiments and Expediency, 1910s–1930s
4 Politics of Playway, 1940s–1950s
5 Alternative Solutions, 1960s–1980s
6 The Measure of Juniors, 1980s–2000s

Available at good booksellers or please use the order form below

ORDER FORM

Yes, please send me (indicate number of copies). Prices include p&p within New Zealand .......... I am Five and I go to School @ $49.95 including GST.

Please charge my credit card □ Visa □ Mastercard
Card No

Expiry date  □□ month/year  Signature..........................................................................................

A Cheque for........................................... is enclosed

Name on card........................................................................................................................................

Send to.............................................................................................................................................

..........................................................................................................................................................

Email...........................................................................................................................................

Send to: Otago University Press, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand
Email: booksales@otago.ac.nz. Phone (03) 479 8807. Fax (03) 479 8385
GST No. 11-163-831  
www.otago.ac.nz/press