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June Factor is a writer, historian and folklorist, currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Centre, University of Melbourne, Australia. The author of many papers and articles in the field of children's lore and language, her books include *Captain Cook Chased a Chook: Children's Folklore in Australia* (Penguin 1988), *Kidspeak: a Dictionary of Australian Children's Words, Expressions and Games* (Melbourne University Press 2000), *Child's Play: Dorothy Howard and the Folklore of Australian Children* (co-edited with Kate Darian-Smith, Museum Victoria 2005), and the six books of Australian children's verbal lore, known collectively as the *Far Out* series (Brolly Books 1983-2005). She is co-editor of the online publication *Play and Folklore*, and co-founder of the Australian Children's Folklore Collection, now housed in Museum Victoria.

'Trust me, I'm an expert!'
Children's play culture and adult interventions

In 1988 I wrote that adults treated children's play culture with benign neglect. Almost 20 years later there is disturbing evidence from a number of countries that children's playlore is increasingly limited and restricted by inappropriate and sometimes harmful adult interference. Adult efforts to reshape and control the play culture include restrictions on where, how and what may be played, attempts to censor verbal lore, and encouragement of competitive sport. In this context I consider some of the characteristics and significance of primary school children's voluntary play traditions. Viewed through the 'double helix' - one strand representing the universal, ubiquitous features of child lore, the other the particular manifestations of children's play lives that result from particular circumstances - I focus particularly on play as a mode of transformation and subversion.