**JEAN**

What's wrong? What's up?

**THOMAS**

Dominic was following me.

**JEAN IONTA**

Dominic's following you? And what is he ...

**THOMAS**

He's copying me as well.

**JEAN IONTA**

I think he just wants to play with you and be your friend.

**SUSAN O'DONNELL**

Jean is one of our PSAs here. She's in the yard every morning at a quarter to 9:00. Two mornings a week, she starts at 8:00 and picks up all the photocopying before she goes out into the yard.

**JEAN**

Dominic, I need you to come to me. OK. Thomas wants to be your friend. So what do you do? Shake hands. Shake hands.

**DOMINIC**

Sorry.

**JEAN**

Sorry? OK. On you go. All right?

**JEAN IONTA**

The value for the children is they're getting a chance to meet their friends before they come into the school, play with their friends, relax a wee bit. So they're coming in to a fun situation in the yard. They're coming in to meet their friends, play, chat, talk about what they did last night. And they're coming in. They're going to be happy by the time they go into class. Nice and chilled out, and in a good frame of mind to start the day.

What was his problem with it?

**SPEAKER 1**

That ball was over there.

**JEAN IONTA**

They're playing with that ball.

Got to be very calm, because there's a lot going on out there, and they do get into all these arguments. But you have to keep the peace, because the children have to be able to rely on you and trust you. And they've got to know that you're listening.

**THOMAS**

Good.

**JEAN IONTA**

Wish I had your umbrella this morning. Mrs. Ionta's getting soaked this morning.

**SUSAN O'DONNELL**

We thank God for our morning, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen. Stand in a nice prayerful position, please.

**JEAN IONTA**

Her main duty is that Jean is an additional support for learning, PSA. Jean has a Nurture qualification, and she works point 7 in the Nurture rooms.

**JACQUELINE WHITE**

This morning is we're going to finish our puppets that we started yesterday. Now Michael, you were off, but we've sorted that for you, OK? So I wonder, Mrs. Ionta, could you get the puppets?

**JEAN IONTA**

Certainly.

**JACQUELINE WHITE**

Michael could you go and get five paper towels? Could you go and get seven glue sticks, please.

**JEAN IONTA**

Oh. Somewhere there, Aidan.

**JACQUELINE WHITE**

Jean takes on an awful lot of the responsibility that I could do, but she's very good and she's very capable. And it's through years of experience in working together and developing that team that we've got to where we are.

**SPEAKER 2**

A double six.

**JEAN IONTA**

That's a really good, that's a good thing to share your place piece with her. I think she's going to be changing from that sad face to happy face.

You've got to work very well together. You get to know each other pretty well, each other's strengths. When I'm in the Nurture room, it's teamwork.

All right, have a seat where you were sitting. I'll come over here. Oh, he doesn't mind having a paper plate, do you, Michael?

**ANTON GALLAGHER**

OK, let's look at the number two.

**JEAN IONTA**

But when I'm in a class situation, I'm really there just to support the children.

**ANTON GALLAGHER**

Odd or even. Don't call out. Who can tell me why it is even. Melissa?

**MELISSA**

Because two is an even number.

**ANTON GALLAGHER**

That's right. Two is the last number, isn't it? And that's an even number. And any number that ends with two is?

**CHILDREN**

Even.

**ANTON GALLAGHER**

Even, that's right.

**JEAN IONTA**

We've got a new boy who's just joined us and is from Chinese background. English is his second language. So he's needing a wee bit of extra help, 'cause he may not fully understand what the class teacher is explaining. So I'll be there just to sort of explain, just really help in any way I can.

**ANTON GALLAGHER**

Once you've done that, fold your arms to show me you're ready.

**SPEAKER 3**

Three?

**JEAN IONTA**

Four. Put four. Number four.

**ANTON GALLAGHER**

I think that we worked well together. We were able beforehand to discuss which children could do with a little bit of support. And I think that was carried out well.

Once you've done that, fold your arms to show me you're ready. If you think it's even ...

**SUSAN O'DONNELL**

At lunchtime, Jean also does the toothbrushing in a conjunction with a toothbrushing project for primaries one and two. And at the end of the day on a Tuesday, she stays behind and she helps with the drama and dance.

**JEAN IONTA**

'We Could Have Been Anything That We Wanted to Be?' I don't know the dance. I think that Laura's been doing the dance.

**SPEAKER 4**

Not well. Not well.

**JEAN IONTA**

I think they're getting to know it, though. They were practising it earlier on.

**SPEAKER 4**

Right. [HUMMING MELODY]

**JEAN IONTA**

Where do they stand, Mrs. O'Donnell? Are they all to stand just ...

**SUSAN O'DONNELL**

Er, no.

**JEAN IONTA**

I've been chosen to help because from my recreational time, I do a wee bit of dancing. I do line dancing.

You're helping out with the singing. You're helping out with the singing.

**SUSAN O'DONNELL**

Three, four, and ...

[CHILDREN SINGING – "WE COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING THAT WE WANTED TO BE"]

**JEAN IONTA**

I think it's just a great outlet for them. Great way of letting off steam and just feeling good about themselves, because it's a good fun thing to do. I think the difference between myself and the teacher is the children are more relaxed with me. So I maybe see the children a different way. And I'm there to just support them.

[CHILDREN SINGING – "WE COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING THAT WE WANTED TO BE"]