Finding Aid to the Doris Bergen Papers, 1972-2014

Summary Information
Title: Doris Bergen papers
Creator: Doris Bergen (primary)
ID: 114.4557
Date: 1972–2014 (inclusive); 1989–2010 (bulk)
Extent: 7.5 linear feet
Language: The materials in this collection are primarily in English. There are some instances of Chinese and French; these have been noted in the finding aid.
Abstract: The Doris Bergen papers are a compilation of manuscripts, published articles, conference presentations, research data, correspondence, notes, and primary source materials created or recorded by Dr. Doris Bergen throughout her four decades in the educational psychology and early childhood education fields. The bulk of the materials in this collection are dated between 1989 and 2010.

Repository:
Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
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Custodial History: The Doris Bergen papers were donated to The Strong in August and September 2014 as a gift from Doris Bergen. The papers, received from Bergen in 16 boxes, were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 114.4557
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Controlled Access Terms
Personal Names
- Bergen, Doris
- Sponseller, Doris Bergen

Corporate Names
- Association for the Study of Play
- Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Pittsburg State University
- TASP
Subjects
- Child care--United States
- Child development--China
- Child development--United States
- Cognition in children
- Early childhood education
- Education, Preschool
- Emotions and cognition
- Human development
- Humor in children
- Learning
- Memory
- Play
- Play--Congresses
- Play--Psychological aspects
- Play--Social aspects
- Social interaction in children
- Wit and humor--Psychological aspects

Biographical Note
Doris Bergen, PhD, is a retired Distinguished Professor and current Professor Emerita in the Department of Educational Psychology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She has been in the educational psychology field for over four decades.

Bergen received her PhD from Michigan State University in 1974, concentrating on the developmental emphasis of educational psychology. Bergen held professor positions at Oakland University (Rochester, Michigan), Wheelock College (Boston, Massachusetts), and Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg, Kansas) prior to her appointment at Miami University. Between 1988 and 2013, Bergen taught a range of courses related to learning, human development, assessment, and educational psychology at Miami University, while also serving as the department chair for a decade. She authored numerous books, book chapters, and journal articles on play, technology-enhanced toys, humor, and early childhood development. Bergen presented her research findings at dozens of scholarly conferences and meetings. She served on national, state, and local committees on education, as well as on editorial review boards for scholarly publications.

Upon Bergen’s retirement from Miami University in May 2013, the institution renamed its interdisciplinary research center to the Doris Bergen Center for Human Development, Learning, and Technology. Dr. Bergen has received multiple fellowships, awards, and honors for her significant contributions to the fields of early childhood education, educational psychology, and human development. She continues to be involved in academia and in various professional organizations.
Collection Scope and Content Note
The Doris Bergen papers are a compilation of manuscripts, published articles, conference presentations, research data, correspondence, notes, and primary source materials created or recorded by Dr. Doris Bergen throughout her four decades in the educational psychology and early childhood education fields. Original research data in these materials include written adult memories of childhood play, written observations of young children’s humor by parents and teachers, and elementary school student questionnaires on the problem-solving skills involved in projects using the LEGO Logo computer programming language. There are 100 VHS cassettes of recorded observations of preschool children and special needs children at play in the United States, China, and other countries. The bulk of the materials in this collection are dated between 1989 and 2010, during part of Dr. Bergen’s tenure at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The Doris Bergen papers have been arranged into two series, both of which have been further divided into subseries. The materials are housed in 12 archival document boxes.

System of Arrangement
Series I: Professional papers, 1972-2014
  Subseries A: Manuscripts
  Subseries B: Publications
  Subseries C: Conference presentations
  Subseries D: Research study proposals and documentation
  Subseries E: Correspondence
  Subseries F: Miscellaneous materials
Series II: Original research data, c. 1987-2004
  Subseries A: Written data
  Subseries B: Observational videos
Contents List

Series I: Professional papers, 1972-2014

Subseries A: Manuscripts

Scope and Content Note: This subseries houses text drafts and research papers written by Doris Bergen (earlier, Doris Sponseller) during her professional career in the field of educational psychology. Among the topics of these manuscripts are children’s sense of humor, the role of play in childhood development, and technology in the classroom.

Box 1
Folder 1  “Playing with Ideas: The role of play in development of thought,” Doris Sponseller, text draft of article to appear in Offspring, Fall 1972
Folder 2  “What’s the importance of play?” Doris Bergen, text draft, June 30, 1990
Folder 3  “A Sample of Curriculum for the Infant/Toddler Program,” adapted/reprinted from Doris Bergen, Rebecca Reid, and Louis Torelli, text draft, c. 2001
Folder 5  “ACEI Speaks: Play’s Role in Brain Development,” Doris Bergen, text draft, n.d.
Folder 8  “Development of the sense of humor,” Doris Bergen, copyedited manuscript, n.d.
Folder 10  “Embedding Language/Literacy in Block, Clay, and Small Object Play,” Doris Bergen, text draft, n.d.
Folder 11  “Evaluating ‘Brain-Based’ Curricular Claims,” Doris Bergen, text draft, n.d.
Folder 14  “Humor, Play, and Child Development,” Doris Bergen, text draft, n.d.
Folder 15  “I Keep Three Wishes Ready,” Doris Bergen [?], text draft, n.d.
Folder 17  “Introduction to the READINGS edition,” Doris Bergen [?], text draft, n.d.
Folder 20  “Play and Brain Development as Complimentary Nonlinear Dynamic (Chaotic) Systems,” Doris Bergen, text draft, n.d.
Subseries B: Publications

Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains both photocopies and original publications written by Doris Bergen (earlier, Doris Sponseller). Topics covered within these publications include the importance of play, studies in children’s humor, and technology-enhanced toys. (A full list of Dr. Bergen’s publications can be found on her curriculum vitae, dated 2014.)

Box 2

Folder 1
“Playing with Ideas: The Role of Play in the Development of Thought,” Doris Sponseller, Offspring, Fall-Winter 1972

Folder 2

Folder 4  “A Play Program in a Community Hospital?” Molly Goldman, Doris Sponseller, and Bonnie Ream; American Journal of Materna l Child Nursing, January/February 1978


Folder 7  Handout on Doris Bergen’s “Play as a Medium for Learning & Development,” August 1987


Folder 11  “Should Teachers Permit or Discourage Violent Play Themes?” Doris Bergen, Childhood Education, Vol. 70, No. 5, Annual Theme 1994


Folder 14  “Technology in the Classroom” premiere column, Doris Bergen, Childhood Education, Winter 1999/2000

Folder 15  “Linking Technology and Teaching Practice,” Doris Bergen, Childhood Education, Summer 2000


Folder 19  “Learning in the Robotic World: Active or Reactive?” Doris Bergen, Childhood Education, Summer 2001

Folder 20  “Pretend Play and Young Children’s Development,” Doris Bergen, ERIC Digest, November 2001


Folder 29  ACEI Speaks brochures, “Play’s Role in Brain Development” and “Enjoying Humor with Your Child,” Doris Bergen, n.d.


Folder 34  “What’s the Importance of Play?” Doris Bergen, draft chapter for *Understanding the Possibilities: A curriculum guide for Project Construct*, D. Murphy and S. Goffin (eds.), n.d. [“in press” final draft]

**Subseries C: Conference presentations**

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries holds papers, poster text, slides, abstracts, and notes for presentations given by Doris Bergen at professional conferences. Topics from these presentations include children’s humor, early childhood education, learning through play, technology-enhanced toys, and adult memories of childhood play.

**Box 3**

Folder 1  “Designing a Play Environment for Toddlers,” Doris Sponseller and Matthew Lowry, paper presented at Second Annual Symposium on Play, Atlanta, Georgia; April 12, 1974

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California; April 1979

Folder 3 “Social Interactions of Infant/Toddler Boys and Girls: Age and Gender-Related Patterns,” Doris Bergen, Laura Gaynard, and Louis Torelli; poster presentation at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, Maryland; April 23, 1987


Folder 11 “Sense of Humor of Children at Three Age Levels: 5-6, 8-9, and 11-12,” Doris Bergen and Judy Brown, paper presented at the International Humor Conference, Ithaca, New York; June 1994

Folder 12 “Characteristics of Symbolic Play in Young Children with High and Low Phonological Processing Skills and Literacy Awareness,” Doris Bergen, Leonore Ganschow, Kathy Hutchinson, Daria Mauer, and Brenda Stevens; presentation abstract for World Play Conference, TASP-ICCC, Salzburg, Austria; June 6-9, 1995

Folder 13 “The Relationship of Literacy Play in School to Parent Expectations of Teaching and Learning,” Doris Bergen and Brenda Stevens, paper presented at April 1996 Study Conference of the Association for Childhood Education International; 1996

Folder 14 “Diagnostic Indicators of Emergent Literacy: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives, a Research Colloquium,” Leonore Ganschow, Doris Bergen, Daria Mauer, and Brenda Stevens; presented at 41st Annual Conference of the International Reading Association, New Orleans, Louisiana; April 28-May 3, 1996


Folder 17  “Longitudinal Development of Literacy Skills as a Function of Early Phonological Awareness and Symbolic Play Quality,” Doris Bergen and Daria Mauer, poster presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, New Mexico; April 1999

Folder 18  “What is Wholesome and Productive Play? What does research say about children’s play and what questions have yet to be explored?” Doris Bergen, paper presented at Playing for Keeps: A Conference on the Future of Play, Boston, Massachusetts; March 17-19, 2000

Folder 19  “Influence of Phonological Awareness, Symbolic Play Quality, and Home Literacy Environment at Age 4 on Language/Literacy Skills at Age 9: A Longitudinal Study,” Doris Bergen, Daria Mauer, and Brenda Stevens; paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the AERA, New Orleans, Louisiana; April 2000


Folder 21  “Scientific Learning through Lego/Logo: Is It Work or Is It Play?” Susan Smith and Doris Bergen, paper presented at the 16th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), Beijing, China; July 2000

Folder 22  “Teacher Facilitation of Learning through Play and Humor in Early Childhood Classrooms and in Elementary/Middle School Classrooms,” Doris Bergen and Laura Jewett, paper presented at the 16th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD), Beijing, China; July 2000

Folder 23  “Rethinking the Value of Play: Theory, Practice, and Research Findings,” Doris Bergen, presentation for Butler County AEYC, March 22, 2001

Folder 24  “Play and Active Learning,” Doris Bergen, presentation, June 15, 2001


Folder 27  “Preschool Children’s Engagement in Exploration, Practice, and Pretend Play with ‘Talking’ and ‘Non-talking’ Rescue Heroes,” Doris Bergen, presentation at
the Play Research Colloquium, 2002 Annual Conference of NAEYC, New York, New York; November 20, 2002

Folder 28  “College Students’ Memories of Their Childhood Play: A Ten Year Comparison,” Doris Bergen, presentation at NAEYC-TASP session, November 2003


Box 4

Folder 2  “Investigating Literacy Developments through Technology Play: A PowerTouch™ Study,” Judith Wilson, Deanna Strigens, Sara Michelucci-Vondracek, and Doris Bergen; presentation at NAEYC Annual Conference, Anaheim, California; November 13, 2004

Folder 3  “Communicative Action and Language Narratives in Preschoolers’ Play with Talking and Non-Talking Rescue Heroes,” Doris Bergen, presentation at TASP conference, Atlanta, Georgia; 2004

Folder 4  Presentation abstract, “Gifted Children’s Humor Preferences and Understanding,” Doris Bergen, presentation at 17th Annual Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies, Youngstown, Ohio; June 13-17, 2005

Folder 5  “Laughing to Learn: Parent-Child Play with a Technology-Enhanced Toy,” Doris Bergen, presentation at ISHS Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark; July 2006


Folder 7  Poster abstract submission, “Young Adults’ Technology Play is Related to Moral Emotions, Behaviors, and Reasoning,” Doris Bergen, poster for APS 23rd Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.; 2011


Folder 12  “Research-Based Policy and Practice: A Poster Symposium of State-of-the-Art Examples,” for NAEC Conference, moderator: Doris Bergen, Atlanta, Georgia; November 9 [no year indicated]

Subseries D: Research study proposals and documentation
Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains research proposals, notes, draft presentations, outlines, and surveys/questionnaires created by Doris Bergen. Topics of research studies here include humor in children, cross-cultural studies on children in the United States and China, and technology-enhanced toys.

Box 4
Folder 14  “Play and Social Interaction of Typical and Special Needs Toddlers,” Julie Davish and Doris Bergen, Report of research results, August 1995
Folder 16  “Research description: Adult Memories of Childhood Play,” documents for research study by Doris Bergen, 2001
Folder 18  Play and sense of humor in children - research notes, draft presentations, sample questionnaires; Doris Bergen, n.d.
Folder 21  “Symbolic and Social Play of At-Risk and Typically Developing Toddlers: Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Comparisons,” research study proposal draft, Doris Bergen [?], n.d.
Folder 25  “Protocol for Parent Interview of Play Research Children,” project questionnaire, Doris Bergen [?], n.d.
Folder 26  “Coding for Laugh and Learn Videos” code sheets and parent observation data sheets, n.d.
Folder 27  “Play Coding for Each Pretend Event” data sheet for unidentified research study, n.d.
Folder 28  Untitled code play sheet, n.d.
Subseries E: Correspondence
Scope and Content Note: This subseries holds professional correspondence between Doris Bergen, her academic department at Miami University, various publishers, and colleagues in the educational psychology field.

Box 5
Folder 1 Professional correspondence, 1979-1987
Folder 2 Professional correspondence, 1990-1999
Folder 3 Professional correspondence, 2000-2014 and n.d.

Subseries F: Miscellaneous materials
Scope and Content Note: This subseries contains publicity information, clippings of articles featuring interviews of or quotations by Doris Bergen, professional organization information, reference materials, and other papers. In Box 6 are slides of Chinese children’s book illustrations and school-aged children, with accompanying ancillary materials in the Chinese language. Box 12 contains six VHS cassettes of recordings from commercially-made segments on Chinese schools.

Box 5
Folder 4 Doris Bergen curriculum vitae, 2014
Folder 5 Publicity and published articles featuring Doris Bergen, 1989-2012 and n.d.
Folder 6 Various conference programs and presentation information, 1993-2012 and n.d.
Folder 7 Professional organization committee memberships list, 2000-2002
Folder 8 Various professional organization newsletters, 1997-2007
Folder 9 Book and publisher catalog information, 1994-2007
Folder 10 Miscellaneous professional papers, 2001-2007 and n.d.

Box 6
Folder 1 “Children’s Play” photographic slides, slide nos. 1-220, n.d. [Chinese text]
Folder 2 “Children’s Play” and “China ABC” photographic slides, slide nos. 221-373, n.d. [Chinese text]
Folder 3 Ancillary materials accompanying slides, n.d. [in Chinese]

Box 12
Video 101 “Chinese tape of kindergartens, commercially made,” n.d.

November 2014
(Physical Activities in Kindergarten, Shanghai) / 3. Comprehensive Programs in Tian Er Kindergartens, Shanghai, theme: Spring Festival"


**Series II: Original research data, c. 1987-2004**

**Subseries A: Written data**

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries houses original research data collected by Doris Bergen. Topics covered in the questionnaires and observation data sheets here include adult recollections of childhood play, parent and teacher observations of children’s humor, and student reflections on technology tasks in the classroom. Student names and other identifying information have been redacted from the documents. (No secure information is listed.) Several of the manuscript drafts, publications, and conference presentations listed in Series I utilize the original research data from this subseries.

**Box 7**

Folder 1  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories), Doris Bergen, researcher, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas; c. 1987-1988

Folder 2  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories), Doris Bergen, researcher, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas; c. 1987-1988

Folder 3  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories), Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; n.d.

Folder 4  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories), Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; n.d.

Folder 5  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories), Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; n.d.

Folder 6  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories) and statistics, Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; 2004

**Box 8**

Folder 1  “Adult Memories of Play” research data (written memories), Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; n.d.

Folder 2  “Young Children’s Humor” research study information and data sheets, Doris Bergen, researcher, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas; c. 1987-1991

Folder 3  “Young Children’s Humor” research study information and data sheets, Doris Bergen, researcher, unidentified institution; c. 1991-1994

Folder 4  “Young Children’s Humor” research study information and data sheets, Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; c. 1994-1995

Folder 5  “Young Children’s Humor” research study information and data sheets, Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; c. 1994-1995

**Box 9**

Folder 1  “Young Children’s Humor” research study information and data sheets, Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; c. 1994-1995

Folder 2  “Young Children’s Humor” research study information and data sheets, Doris Bergen, researcher, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; c. 1994-1995
Folder 3  Rescue Heroes study research description, parent questionnaire, procedural and script knowledge examples; c. 2002
Folder 4  “Using LEGO/Logo to Enhance Problem Solving Skills,” Sue Smith and Doris Bergen, research study summary and data sheets, n.d.
Folder 5  Data sheets, “Proportion of Play Types in Total Number of Events,” unidentified research study, Doris Bergen and assistants, n.d.
Folder 6  Data sheets, Subjects 1-32, Observations of play, Doris Bergen and assistants, n.d.

Subseries B: Observational videos

Scope and Content Note: This subseries holds 100 VHS tapes of recorded observations of preschool children and special needs children at play in the United States, China, and other countries. Students are not identified by name and the recordings are strictly observational (with no coercion or prompting by adults). The tapes, recorded between 1989 and 1994, typically feature a “focal child.” Additional information on the background of these tapes can be found in Folder 1.

Box 10
Folder 1  Observational video background information, Doris Bergen, 2014
Video 1  “Setting A / 3.0-3.5”
Video 2  “Setting A / 3.0-3.5”
Video 3  “Setting A / 3.5-4.0”
Video 4  “Setting A / 3.5-4.0”
Video 5  “Setting A / 3.5-4.0”
Video 6  “Setting A / 4-5s”
Video 7  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 8  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 9  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 10  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 11  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 12  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 13  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 14  “Setting A / 4-5”
Video 15  “Setting A / 4.1-4.6”
Video 16  “Setting A / 4.1-4.6”
Video 17  “Setting A / 4.6-5.1”
Video 18  “Setting A / 4.6-5.1”
Video 19  “Setting A / 4.6-5.1”
Video 20  “Setting A / 5.1-5.5”
Video 21  “Setting A / 5.1-5.5”
Video 22  “Setting A / 5.1-5.5”
Video 23  “Setting A / 5.1-5.5”
Video 24  “Setting A / 5.1-5.5”
Video 25  “Setting A / 5.5-6.0”
Video 26  “Setting B / 3-5”
Video 27  “Setting B & C / 3-5”
Video 28  “Setting B & C / 5, 3”
Video 29  “Setting C / Toddler/3’s”
Video 30  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 31  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 32  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 33  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 34  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 35  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 36  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 37  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 38  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 39  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 40  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 41  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 42  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 43  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 44  “Setting C / Toddlers”

Box 11
Video 45  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 46  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 47  “Setting C / Toddlers”
Video 48  “Setting D / 3-5”
Video 49  “Setting E / Preschoolers”
Video 50  “Setting E / Preschoolers”
Video 51  “Setting E / Preschoolers”
Video 52  “Setting E & F / 3-5”
Video 53  “Settings E & F / Preschoolers”
Video 54  “Setting F & H / 3-5”
Video 55  “Setting G / Preschoolers”
Video 56  “Setting G / Preschoolers”
Video 57  “Setting G / Preschoolers”
Video 58  “Setting G / 3-5”
Video 59  “Setting G / 3-5”
Video 60  “Setting G & F / Preschoolers”
Video 61  “Setting G & J / Preschoolers”
Video 62  “Setting I / Preschoolers”
Video 63  “Settings I & G / Preschoolers”
Video 64  “Setting K / Infants, Toddlers”
Video 65  “Setting L / Toddlers”
Video 66  “Setting M (China) / 3.4-4.0”
Video 67  “Setting N (China) / Kindergarten, 3-6”
Video 68  “Settings MNSTU (China) / Inf-Kdg”
Video 69  “Setting O (China) / Kdg-Preschool”
Video 70  “Setting O (China) / Kindergarten-Preschool”
Video 71  “Settings P & Q (China) / Infant-Kdg”
Video 72  “Setting R (Brazil) / Preschoolers”
Video 73  “Settings S & T (China) / Infant-Kdg”
Video 74  “Settings S, T, U (China) / Inf-Kdg”
Video 75  “Settings S, T, U (China) / Infant-Kdg”
Video 76  “Setting V (China) / Preschool”
Video 77  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 78  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 79  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 80  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 81  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 82  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 83  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 84  “Setting W / Toddlers SPED”
Video 85  “Setting W (China) / 1.5-2.5”
Video 86  “Setting W (China) / 2-3”
Video 87  “Setting W (China) / 2.5-4.5”
Video 88  “Setting W (China) / 3-4”

Box 12
Video 89  “Setting W (China) / 4-5”
Video 90  “Setting X / Toddlers SPED”
Video 91  “Setting X / Toddlers SPED”
Video 92  “Setting X / Toddlers SPED”
Video 93  “Setting X / Toddlers SPED”
Video 94  “Setting X (Malaysia), Setting Y (Indonesia) / Preschool, Int. Preschool”
Video 95  “Setting Y / Toddlers SPED”
Video 96  “Setting Y / Toddlers SPED”
Video 97  “Setting Y / Toddlers SPED”
Video 98  “Setting Y / Toddlers SPED”
Video 99  “Setting Y / Toddlers SPED”
Video 100 “Setting Y / Toddlers SPED”