

A young child with dark hair, wearing a red and white horizontally striped t-shirt, is lying on their back on a blue slide. They are looking up towards the right side of the frame. In the upper right, the legs of another person are visible, wearing blue denim shorts and black sneakers with white laces. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor playground setting.

The
Developing
Person
Through the
Life Span

tenth edition

KATHLEEN STASSEN BERGER

Highlights of the Science of Human Development

As evident throughout this textbook, much more research and appreciation of the brain, social context, and the non-Western world has expanded our understanding of human development in the 21st century. This timeline lists a few highlights of the past.

<p>200,000-50,000 BCE With their large brains, long period of child development, and extensive social and family support, early humans were able to sustain life and raise children more effectively than other primates.</p> <p>c. 400 BCE In ancient Greece, ideas about children from philosophers like Plato (c. 428-348 BCE) and Aristotle (384-322 BCE) influenced further thoughts about children. Plato believed children were born with knowledge. Aristotle believed children learn from experience.</p>	<p>1650-1800 European philosophers like John Locke (1632-1704) and Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) debate whether children are born as "blank slates" and how much control parents should take in rearing them.</p> <p>1797 First European vaccination Edward Jenner (1749-1823) publicizes smallpox inoculation. Building on vaccination against smallpox in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.</p> <p>1750-1850 Beginning of Western laws regulating child labor and protecting the rights of children.</p>	<p>1879 First experimental psychology laboratory established in Leipzig, Germany.</p> <p>1885 Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) publishes <i>Studies on Hysteria</i>, one of the first works establishing the importance of the subconscious and marking the beginning of the theories of psychoanalytic theory.</p> <p>1895 Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936) begins research on dogs salivation responses.</p>	<p>1900 Max Weber (1864-1920), the founder of sociology, writes <i>The Protestant Work Ethic</i>, about human values and adult work.</p> <p>1905 Alfred Binet's (1857-1911) intelligence test published.</p> <p>1907 Maria Montessori (1870-1952) opens her first school in Rome.</p> <p>1913 John B. Watson (1878-1952) publishes <i>Psychology-As the Behaviorist Views It</i>.</p>	<p>1843 Abraham Maslow (1908-1970) publishes <i>A Theory of Motivation</i>, establishing the hierarchy of needs.</p> <p>1950 Erik Erikson (1902-1994) expands on Freud's theory to include social aspects of personality development with the publication of <i>Childhood and Society</i>.</p> <p>1951 John Bowlby (1907-1990) publishes <i>Maternal Care and Mental Health</i>, one of his first works on the importance of parent-child attachment.</p> <p>1953 Publication of the first papers describing DNA, our genetic blueprint.</p>	<p>1957 Harry Harlow (1905-1981) publishes <i>Love in Infant Monkeys</i>, describing his research on attachment in rhesus monkeys.</p> <p>1961 The morning sickness drug Thalidomide is banned after children are born with serious birth defects, calling attention to the problem of teratogens during pregnancy.</p> <p>1961 Alfred Bandura (b. 1925) conducts the Bobo Doll experiments, leading to the development of social learning theory.</p>	<p>1979 Urie Bronfenbrenner (1917-2005) publishes his work on ecological systems theory.</p> <p>1986 John Gottman (b. 1942) founded the "Love Lab" at the University of Washington to study what makes relationships work.</p> <p>1987 Carolyn Rovee-Collier (1942-2014) shows that even young infants can remember in her classic mobile experiments.</p> <p>1993 Howard Gardner (b. 1943) publishes <i>Multiple Intelligences</i>, a major new understanding of the diversity of human intellectual abilities. Gardner has since revised and expanded his ideas in many ways.</p> <p>1994 Steven Pinker (b. 1954) publishes <i>The Language Instinct</i>, focusing attention on the interaction between neuroscience and behavior, helping developmentalists understand the need for physiological understanding as part of human growth. These themes continue in his later work, such as <i>How the Mind Works</i> in 1997.</p>	<p>1950 The United Nations treaty <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> in effect, requiring that the best interests of children be considered, and stating that they are not solely the possession of their parents. All UN nations have signed on, except Somalia, South Sudan, and the United States.</p>
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<p>140 BCE In China, imperial examinations are one of the first times cognitive testing is used on young people.</p> <p>500-1000 During the Middle Ages in Europe, many adults believed that children were miniature adults.</p> <p>1837 First kindergarten opens in Germany, part of a movement to teach young children before they entered the primary school system.</p> <p>1859 Charles Darwin (1809-1882) publishes <i>On the Origin of Species</i>, sparking debates about what is genetic and what is environmental.</p> <p>1100-1200 First universities founded in Europe. Young people pay to be educated together.</p>	<p>1900 Compulsory schooling for children is established for most children in the United States and Europe.</p> <p>1901 The term "gerontology," the branch of developmental science devoted to studying aging, first coined.</p> <p>1933 Society for Research on Child Development, the preeminent organization for research on child development, founded.</p> <p>1939 Mamie (1917-1983) and Kenneth Clay (1914-2005) receive their research grants to study race in early childhood.</p>	<p>1920 Lev Vygotsky (1896-1934) develops sociocultural theory in the former Soviet Union.</p> <p>1923 Jean Piaget (1896-1980) publishes <i>The Language and Thought of the Child</i>.</p> <p>1933 Society for Research on Child Development, the preeminent organization for research on child development, founded.</p> <p>1939 Mamie (1917-1983) and Kenneth Clay (1914-2005) receive their research grants to study race in early childhood.</p>	<p>1955 Head Start, an early childhood education program, launched in the United States.</p> <p>1965 Mary Ainsworth (1915-1999) starts using the "Strange Situation" to measure attachment.</p> <p>1966 Diana Baumrind (b. 1928) publishes her first work on parenting styles.</p> <p>1972 Beginning of the Dunedin, New Zealand, study—one of the first longitudinal studies to include genetic markers.</p> <p>1996 K. Warner Schaie's (b. 1928) Seattle Longitudinal Study of Adult Intelligence begins.</p>	<p>1965 Head Start, an early childhood education program, launched in the United States.</p> <p>1965 Mary Ainsworth (1915-1999) starts using the "Strange Situation" to measure attachment.</p> <p>1966 Diana Baumrind (b. 1928) publishes her first work on parenting styles.</p> <p>1972 Beginning of the Dunedin, New Zealand, study—one of the first longitudinal studies to include genetic markers.</p> <p>1996 K. Warner Schaie's (b. 1928) Seattle Longitudinal Study of Adult Intelligence begins.</p>	<p>1990-Present New brain imaging technology allows pinpointing of brain areas involved in everything from executive function to Alzheimer's disease.</p> <p>2000 Jeffrey Arnett conceptualizes emerging adulthood.</p> <p>2003 Mapping of the human genome is completed.</p> <p>2013 DSM-5, which emphasizes the role of context in understanding mental health problems, is published.</p> <p>Present Onward: There are many more discoveries and research chronicled in this book.</p>	<p>1996 Giacomo Rizzolatti publishes his discovery of mirror neurons.</p> <p>2000 Jeffrey Arnett conceptualizes emerging adulthood.</p> <p>2003 Mapping of the human genome is completed.</p> <p>2013 DSM-5, which emphasizes the role of context in understanding mental health problems, is published.</p> <p>Present Onward: There are many more discoveries and research chronicled in this book.</p>	<p>1996 Giacomo Rizzolatti publishes his discovery of mirror neurons.</p> <p>2000 Jeffrey Arnett conceptualizes emerging adulthood.</p> <p>2003 Mapping of the human genome is completed.</p> <p>2013 DSM-5, which emphasizes the role of context in understanding mental health problems, is published.</p> <p>Present Onward: There are many more discoveries and research chronicled in this book.</p>
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The Developing Person Through the Life Span

TENTH EDITION

The Developing Person Through the Life Span



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Bronx Community College of the City
University of New York



worth publishers

Macmillan Learning

New York

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Illustrations: Todd Buck Illustrations, MPS Limited, Evelyn Pence, Charles Yuen

Composition: MPS Limited

Printing and Binding: LSC Communications

Cover Photograph: Alix Minde/PhotoAlto/Getty Images
Peopleimages/E+/Getty Images, JGI/Jamie Grill/Getty Images,
Peter M. Fisher/Fuse/Getty Images, Ron Levine/DigitalVision/
Getty Images, Milind Ketkar/Dinodia Photo/age fotostock

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016949294

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01587-9

ISBN-10: 1-319-01587-5

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01627-2

ISBN-10: 1-319-0-1627-8

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01628-9

ISBN-10: 1-319-01628-6

Copyright © 2017, 2014, 2011, 2008 by Worth Publishers

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Printed in the United States of America

First printing

Worth Publishers

One New York Plaza

Suite 4500

New York, NY 10004-1562

www.macmillanlearning.com

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Kathleen Stassen Berger received her undergraduate education at Stanford University and Radcliffe College, and then she earned an MAT from Harvard University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Yeshiva University. Her broad experience as an educator includes directing a preschool, serving as chair of philosophy at the United Nations International School, and teaching child and adolescent development to graduate students at Fordham University in New York and undergraduates at Montclair State University in New Jersey and Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. She also taught social psychology to inmates at Sing Sing Prison who were earning their paralegal degrees.

Currently, Berger is a professor at Bronx Community College of the City University of New York, as she has been for most of her professional career. She began there as an adjunct in English and for the past decades has been a full professor in the social sciences department, which includes sociology, economics, anthropology, political science, human services, and psychology. She has taught introduction to psychology, child and adolescent development, adulthood and aging, social psychology, abnormal psychology, and human motivation. Her students—who come from many ethnic, economic, and educational backgrounds and who have a wide range of ages and interests—consistently honor her with the highest teaching evaluations.

Berger is also the author of *Invitation to the Life Span* and *The Developing Person Through Childhood and Adolescence*. Her developmental texts are currently being used at more than 800 colleges and universities worldwide and are available in Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese, as well as English. Her research interests include adolescent identity, immigration, bullying, and grandparents, and she has published articles on developmental topics in the *Wiley Encyclopedia of Psychology* and in publications of the American Association for Higher Education and the National Education Association for Higher Education. She continues teaching and learning from her students as well as from her four daughters and three grandsons.



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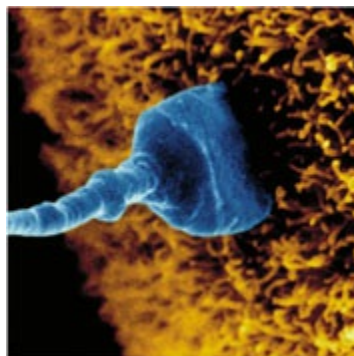
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David M. Phillips/Science Source

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