

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[William S. Langford Papers](#)

LANGFORD, WILLIAM S., 1906-1976.

William S. Langford papers, 1935-1971.

.15 cubic feet (1 box)

#M-0113

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: William S. Langford, a pioneer in the field of child psychiatry in the United States, was born Aug. 15, 1906 in Lakewood, N.J. He received his A.B. from Harvard in 1929 and his medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1931. He did internships at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. and at Babies Hospital at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. In 1934-35 he was a Fellow in Child Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he worked with Leo Kanner, one of the founders of the field in the U.S.

In 1935 he was hired by Babies Hospital Director, Rustin McIntosh, to establish a Pediatric Psychiatric Clinic. He would remain its Director until his retirement. That same year Langford was appointed an Assistant in the Dept. of Psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; he rose through the academic ranks and became Professor of Psychiatry in 1950. He retired in 1972 and was named Professor Emeritus.

Langford held many leadership positions in his field. He was a founder and president (1957-59) of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry; president (1960-61) of the American Orthopsychiatric Association; and an Honorary Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He died Oct. 4, 1976 in Katonah, N.Y.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Lecture notes, reprints, and a presidential address of William S. Langford, all relating to his work in child psychiatry. His reprints, which are not a complete set, cover a wide range of pediatric mental health issues including thumb-sucking, stuttering, and anxiety attacks. The presidential address, entitled "The Child in the Pediatric Hospital," was delivered to the American Orthopsychiatric Association in 1961. The lecture notes are from his classes at the Columbia University School of Nursing. They cover a variety of psychiatric issues and though not all are dated, appear to come from the 1950s.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Unrestricted.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Penelope R. Buschman, a student of Langford and Asst. Professor of Clinical Nursing, Columbia University School of Nursing, 2011 (acc.#2011.018).

Subjects

Langford, William S., 1906-1976.

Babies Hospital (New York, N.Y.)

Columbia University. School of Nursing.

Child psychiatry – United States – 20th century.

Child mental health – United States – 20th century.

Psychiatry – Study and teaching – United States – 20th century.

Box List

Box	Folder	
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1	1	Nursing School lecture notes, 1950s
	2	Reprints, 1935-1971
	3	Presidential address, American Orthopsychiatric Association, March 23, 1961