

SERIES LEVEL DESCRIPTION
TV CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

Scope & Content

The papers relate to the creation of programmes of talks, documentaries, series and serials, puppet shows, stories, plays, cartoons, child participation and magazine programmes. They potentially cover items from initial proposal through arrangements for filming and editing, to the broadcast stage, and viewer/contributor feedback. In addition to correspondence they can include such items as budget documents, clearances, programmes as completed, interview transcripts, press releases, audience research reports and scripts.

The papers were originally filed in Television Central Registry.

The papers include correspondence and official paperwork from the following sources: producers, directors, writers, artists and other production staff; Head of Children's Programmes; Head of Licensing; Script Library; contributors to programmes; outside broadcasters and programme makers such as Children's Television Workshop (USA), Riverbank Productions Ltd (Canada), Film Fair Ltd (UK) and the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Arrangement

The files are arranged alphabetically for the first two sequences (T2/1-195 up to c.1955 and T2/196-239 up to c. 1960).

For later accruals the files are arranged numerically and consist mainly of files from the 1960's to the 1980's. There are a few files from the 1940's (T2/240), a few files from the 1950's (T2/241-242, 377-389), and from the 1990's (T2/428-429, 447).

A complete alphabetical listing of the files in this series is available, as are detailed précis for files T2/1-379 (in numerical order).

Related Areas

From 1963 onwards Drama Group (T65) and Light Entertainment (T12) were responsible for providing appropriate children's programmes.

Schools Experiment: T27

Education: T57

Blue Peter: T74

Children's Hour: R11

School Broadcasting Council/Educational Board: R98

Educational Broadcasting Registry: R99

Education: Sen Asst Educ Broadcasting Service Papers: R100

Education: R103

Schools Broadcasting Council: R121

Administrative History

The Children's Television department was originally set up in September 1950, headed by Freda Lingstrom. Seven producers were appointed to work exclusively on children's programmes. *Watch With Mother* was devised in this period, and included such programmes as *Andy Pandy* and *Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men*.

In 1956 Owen Reed took over from Lingstrom. The magazine programme *Blue Peter* was first broadcast in 1958.

In January 1963 as part of a major television reorganisation children's drama was moved into the newly formed Drama Group. Light entertainment for children was also removed from the department at this time.

In 1964 the new Family Programmes department, under Doreen Stephens, was created by amalgamating Children's Programmes and Women's Programmes. When Stephens left in 1967 Family Programmes was disbanded, Children's Programmes department's name was restored, and Monica Sims was its head.

E. C. Barnes took over as Head of Children's Programmes in 1979 and was replaced by Anna Home in 1986.

c. 26500 items

448 files

1939-1989, 1991-1992