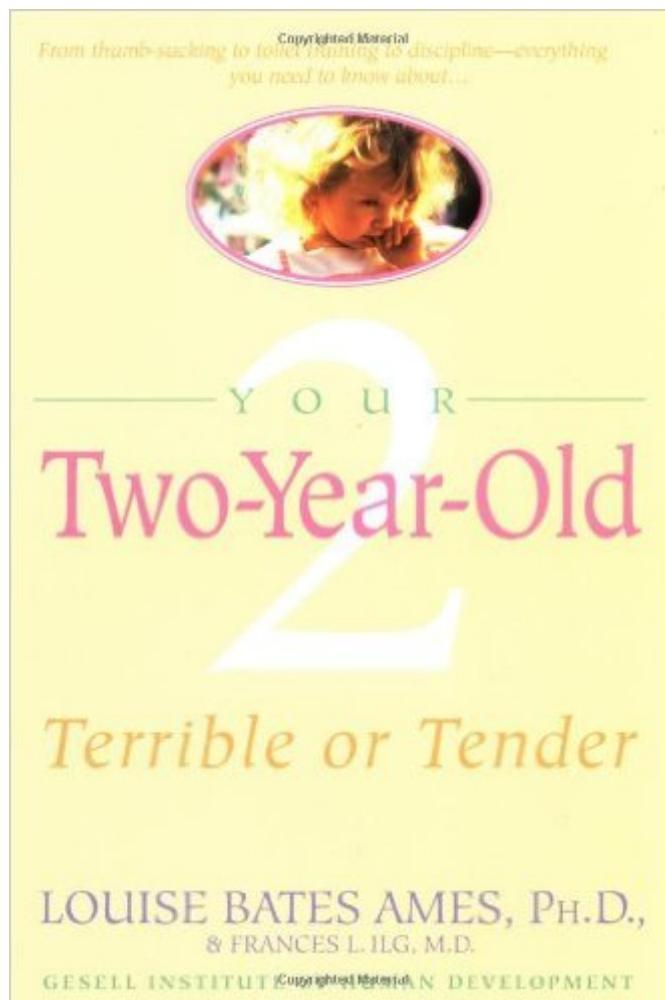


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# Your Two-Year-Old: Terrible Or Tender



## Synopsis

Are two-year-olds really so terrible, or does the world have a slightly skewed view of this sometimes difficult, sometimes adorable lot? Drs. Ames and Ilg, recognized worldwide as authorities on child behavior and development, offer parents practical advice and enlightening psychological insights on children this age. Â What are two-year-old girls and boys thinking and feeling? How do they see others around them? With humor and compassion, the authors describe the general characteristics of these complex toddlers: their physical growth trends, their emotional and psychological maturation. Also included are insights into how two-year-olds behave with family and other children, and advice on how to handle them, as well as things to avoid. Â Included in this book: â ¢ A two-year-oldâ ™s view of the worldâ ¢ and himself â ¢ Bath and dressing routines â ¢ Sex differences â ¢ Stories from real life â ¢ A list of age-appropriate toys and books â ¢ A bibliography for parents Â â œLouise Bates Ames and her colleagues synthesize a lifetime of observation of children, consultation, and discussion with parents. These books will help parents to better understand their children and will guide them through the fascinating and sometimes trying experiences of modern parenthood.â •â "Donald J. Cohen, M.D., Director, Yale Child Study Center, Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology, Yale School of Medicine

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yes, this series of books can be a bit out of date in places. But if the reader recognizes and accommodates that, these are still -- by far -- the best books of their kind on the market. Like the others in this series, this book addresses the timeless issues of appropriate developmental milestones, including cognitive abilities, interaction with others, attention span, language

recognition, interpersonal relationships, etc. The text is reasonably neutral and instructive on hot topics such as discipline, sleep habits, and diet. We have found this series of books to be an outstanding resource. If you look in the back of the popular Doris Herman book about preschool, you will find that she does, too.

This book is great at describing child behavior for this turbulent year. Its strength is in giving comfort to parents that they are probably doing a pretty good job. Yes, everyone tells you twos are hard, but this book spells out exactly how and why. Really leaves you with a sense of comfort that the spoiled egocentric behavior is not lifelong, but a necessary development. The book does not claim to offer a solution or be the perfect expert (thank you!), but gives a few suggestions to parents to get through this period of development. I left my reading of it feeling much better about my parenting job. Some of the language is dated (as are most classics), but I hang onto the statement, "every mother of a 2 1/2 year old needs plenty of breaks." Although one commentator questions the author's suggestion to limit choices at 2 1/2, she seems to limit that to this tough period where the child has a lot of new things happening. Limiting choices really helped in our case. I recommend this book for any parent with a two year old.

This series of books (Your "X" Year Old) is a helpful reference for the parent. While in certain places the information seems dated or offbeat, generally the books are very helpful. They are at their best when recounting detailed observations of what "typical" two year olds say and do. Suggestions for "techniques" of getting through daily tasks with the two year old are helpful. A needed reassurance that neither you, nor your child, is abnormal.

During his years as director of the child development institute at Yale University, Arnold Gesell pioneered techniques for observation of infants, children, and adolescents. He emphasized the kinds of norms or behaviors found to be associated with certain ages. Gesell is the father of developmental norms. This book, as well as the others, are developmentally based. Many books out there are not. This book is terrific for 1st time parents and others who simply don't know what is normal behavior.

The book offers a parent an understanding of both the physical and emotional development of two year olds. It shows how the two relate to behaviors and how different personalities handle this stage of development. The information is well organized and easily understood.

This review covers ALL of the "Your \_\_\_\_ Year Old" Books, from the Gesell Institute of Human Development; I own nearly all of them, from Your One Year Old up to Your Nine Year Old. These books are slim, fast reads with lots of really helpful observations and advice. Especially helpful to me: the explanation of the different phases between equilibrium and disequilibrium that virtually every child goes through; in later books the concept of "inwardized" vs. "outwardized" behavior is discussed and explained. These concepts were of critical importance to me in understanding the "whys" of puzzling behavior changes with my children. Each book has the same basic layout of chapter headings, from "Characteristics of the Age", "The Child and Other People" (i.e., with mother, father, siblings, friends), "Routines, Health, and Tensional Outlets", "Discipline", "General Interests and Abilities", "The Child's Mind", and so on. The layout makes it quite easy to flip to whatever issue you are currently interested in. They also (in some of the books) address possible food sensitivities, which I think particularly important; also very helpful -- each book has a section with advice on the planning of the birthday party for the age (with developmentally appropriate advice on how many to invite, what to expect, etc.). My only complaint is rather minor: the pictures and some of the wording chosen are quite dated at times, which understandably might hinder credibility for some readers. However, the main concepts are not in any way altered by this. My own mother got a good laugh out of the pictures and commented that the kids' clothing and haircuts looked exactly like my siblings and I did back in the 70's! If you can get past the "time warp" pictures, you can learn a lot -- I have found that these books are extremely accurate at describing my children in any given stage of development; I have often said to my husband in the middle of reading one of them: "Oh my gosh, you have GOT to hear this -- this describes (name of child) so perfectly, it's almost like a book all about him/her!!" Overall a very helpful overview of childhood development; I recommend it/them to any parent, childcare professional, or anyone else who spends considerable time with children.

more helpful in its hundred-odd pages than the whole massive "What to Expect, the Toddler Years" is in about 700. Read this one first, use the latter as a reference.

As a mom I found this entire series very helpful. It gives you a road map to get through this year & realize that perhaps traits in your child you'd prefer to see change, will, in fact, change as early as next year. I had one child who is an adopted Mayan Indian, and her development unfolded just like the US kids studied to do the books. As a family attorney, sometimes a parent will report the child coming home all the time saying they don't get fed at the other parent's house. I get out my book to

see whether the child is in one of those years where they're ravenously hungry all the time and constantly say they didn't get fed, or whether perhaps there is a real issue. I wish other attorneys and court-related experts were familiar with the developmental issues addressed in this series.

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