



The following excerpt is from *Your Two-Year-Old: The Trusted Resource to Help Your Child Advance, Achieve, Succeed*. Part of the Parents Picks series, this book was published by St. Martin's Press.

Your two-year-old runs her hands along a bumpy concrete wall. She stomps her feet into puddles, seeing how high she can make the water splash. She crouches down and watches ants with the intensity of a scientist viewing slides under a microscope. She yanks a leaf off a bush and smells it. She bangs a stick rhythmically against an empty bucket. She fills a bucket with sand, then empties it out. Then does it again. And again. She flicks a light switch on and off—twenty times. She carefully constructs a tower of blocks, only to knock it down.

These actions may look random, unconnected, and even silly, but they are actually serious business. Your two-year-old is using all her senses—sometimes exhaustingly so—to figure out the world around her. For two-year-olds, the world in all its wonder comes into focus in Technicolor™ glory, and they want to know everything about it. They seek that knowledge by exploring and experimenting, playing and pretending, sorting and categorizing, doing the same thing over and over again, and asking sometimes seemingly endless questions.