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Tender? Friend? Wonderful? or Terrible? Enemy? Wild?

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Abstract

Originally published in *Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books*, 1977, Vol 22(9), 705–706. Reviews the books by Louise Bates Ames and Frances L. Ilg: *Your Two-Year-Old: Terrible or Tender* (1976); *Your Three-Year-Old: Friend or Enemy* (1976); and *Your Four-Year-Old: Wild and Wonderful* (1976). Each of these books has a similar format, containing a separate description of the child at each half year. Chapters cover techniques for dealing with the child, accomplishments and capabilities of the child, help with routines, the child's mind, individuality, and letters to the authors along with their answers. The books on 3- and 4-year-olds contain chapters with itineraries for birthday parties. Each book presents the reader (who is assumed to be a middle-class mother) with descriptive behaviors

characterizing her child and with suggestions for coping with the rough times and enjoying the good times. These descriptions, though, do not seem very different from those offered in earlier works from the Gesell Institute. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)

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