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### **Pictures for Reflection**

For the toddler, the world is a place of adventure, exploration, and wonder. Adults provide children with a variety of risk-free opportunities to experience different materials, textures, elements, ingredients, objects, and tools. Young children come to know their world by touching, manipulating, lifting, dropping, and throwing. Sometimes, children experience by tasting; watchful adults are close-by to guide safe exploration.



Through exploration, children compare. Children learn the contrasting properties between grass and concrete, water and ice, and mulch and ravioli. Even when children successfully use tools in their exploration, they may, at the last minute resort to the “tried and true” use of fingers. Misapproximations are expected and practice is encouraged. Making sure you do not lose a ravioli is a natural and positive motivation.

