Thus A Child Learns

(Frederick Moffitt)

Thus a child learns:

By wiggling skills through his fingers and toes into himself;

By soaking up habits and attitudes of those around him;

By pushing and pulling his world.

Thus a child learns:

More through trial and error;

More though pleasure than pain;

More through experience than direction.

Thus a child learns:

Through affection, through love, through patience;

Through understanding, through belonging;

Through doing, through being.

Day by day the child comes to know a little bit of what you think,

to understand your understanding;

That which you dream and believe and are,

in truth becomes the child.

As you perceive dully or clearly;

As you think fuzzily or sharply;

As you believe foolishly or wisely;

As you dream drably or goldenly...

Thus a child learns.

(taken from "In Praise of Children" edited by Kay Kuzma 1997)