

TOILET-TRAINING POLICY

Toilet-Training also referred to as Potty-training is a team effort between the child, the family and the center. It can be very rewarding and successful -- if we work together.

1. Younger children should show some sign of readiness before **potty training** can begin. Parents and teachers will decide together when and how to start. Please request and review our potty-training procedures prior to beginning potty training at home.
2. Potty training at our center typically starts in the 2 year old class, usually around the age of 24 to 30 months, depending on the readiness of the child. Our “potty training” facilities are child-adapted and conveniently located.
3. Usually children around 18 - 24 months show “potty AWARENESS.” This does not mean they are “potty READY.” We believe in starting children when they are “READY” to begin. There is truly a window of opportunity.
4. If families wait until the child is truly ready then potty training will only take a few weeks. In our experience if you start a child too early, the experience puts stress on the child and everyone involved. Patience allows training to be a positive learning experience.
5. When it is close to the time to begin potty training we will talk with the parent/family about a specific weekend to start and we will review our procedures. We have potty training resources that are available for check out and we encourage families to begin to talk to the child and read books about going to the potty.

6. Readiness signs that we both should observe before beginning to train include:
- a) regular, soft, formed bowel movements at predictable times;
 - b) ability to pull pants up and down;
 - c) imitates others' bathroom habits;
 - d) makes a physical demonstration when having a bowel movement;
 - e) staying dry overnight and/or for long periods of time during the day;
 - f) has words for bowel movement and urine;
 - g) can follow simple instructions;
 - h) dislikes the feeling of being in a dirty diaper – requests a change;
 - i) understands the value of putting things where they belong;
 - j) demonstrates a desire for independence;
 - k) walks and balances well – can sit down/stand up easily;
 - l) is beginning to tell you when they're wet or have had a bowel movement.

The child should have demonstrated at least 5-6 of the readiness skills consistently before beginning to train.

7. We recommend using big girl panties or big boy underwear along with plastic pants (optional) and lots of changes of clothes to train in rather than pull-ups.