

Potty Training Policy

Potty training is a necessary part of any child's upbringing. It is a vital developmental step that gives children the independence to function on their own.

Potty training here is defined as independence on the child's part.

Children enrolled in preschool must be toilet trained before attending preschool. Toddlers in our program will not advance to Pre-School until they are potty trained as outlined below. If not trained by 4.0, they will have to exit our childcare program.

Why do children have to be toilet trained before they begin preschool? There are strict standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers/pull-ups and our preschool classrooms are not equipped for this. Preschool teachers will not have the time for potty training and handling accidents. When an adult is busy changing a child's soiled clothing, it is taking away learning time for all students and it is removing one adult from the direct supervision of and interaction with the rest of the class.

We do understand that even toilet trained children will occasionally have accidents. "Accidents" are unusual incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, the teachers will help children change their clothes and encourage greater independence as much as they are able. Parents may be called to the center to support changing the child during these rare incidents.

A toilet trained child is a child who can do the following:

- ❖ Does not wear pullups or other diaper type disposable underwear.
- ❖ A child who recognizes the need to eliminate and can access and use the toilet with little to no help.
- ❖ Can communicate to teachers when he/she needs to use the restroom before they need to go
- ❖ Alerts him/herself to stop what he/she is doing to go and use the bathroom
- ❖ Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up without assistance
- ❖ Wipe him/herself after using the toilet (with minimal assistance for 3-year-olds)
- ❖ Get on/off the toilet by him/herself (we provide a step stool and toilet seat to assist)
- ❖ Wash and dry hands
- ❖ The child can also postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or if we are away from the classroom
- ❖ The child can wake up during nap time should he/she need to use the bathroom.

Initially, all new children will be placed on a toileting log and a schedule of toileting opportunities. During the scheduled toileting times, children will be taken to the bathroom and asked to use the facilities. They will have to go through all of the typical activities associated with toileting and wait for a couple of minutes on the toilet before being allowed to resume the previous activities. Once the child has demonstrated toileting competency for a month, the teachers will transition them to a less structured toileting schedule. We will ask your child many times throughout the day, at regular transitions, and before/after meals and nap time if

he/she needs to use the bathroom. A teacher will assist children as needed with buttons or snaps, but children must be able to complete toileting activities independently as referenced above.

New enrollments and transfers to the Pre-School classroom will be supported. Teachers will assist the children when necessary for the first three months and report any incidents to the parent(s). Please have your child dressed in clothing that he/she can easily manage independently. Please send a complete change of clothes appropriate for the season. These will be left at school in case of accidents and then returned at the end of the season.

Determination for those that are potty trained or not will be evaluated given these criteria and actions after the child is chronologically 3.5 years old or has been in care for 3 months whichever allows most time:

- If three accidents occur within a contiguous 5-day week (meaning Monday to Friday), at the third occurrence, the parents will collect the child at or before the end of the day and the child will have to stay home 2 days or the remainder of the week whichever is shorter to be given more assistance with toilet training
- If three accidents occur in one day, the parent will have to come collect the child at or before the end of the day and the child will have to stay home 2 days or the remainder of the week whichever is shorter to give more devoted time to become toilet trained.
- If there is a second or a third separate week of accidents warranting a short stay at home, the number of days will increase to 3 full school days. This may carry over into the following week.
- If two or more of these events occur in a one-month period, parents will be asked to come for a conference to discuss how best to support their child's learning needs.
- If problems persist beyond three separate occasions, another conference will be held to problem solve the best way to support their child's learning needs.
- Continuing difficulties could result in the child not being allowed to continue their enrollment at Families First Child Care.

Please note this policy is not in place to shame or punish a child or to inconvenience primary caregivers/parents.

The POTTY-TRAINING policy is intended to ensure the safety and happiness of children and staff at Families First Child Care. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW INDICATING THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED & REVIEWED THE FAMILIES FIRST CHILD CARE TOILET TRAINING POLICY.

PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS TOILET TRAINING POLICY

I HAVE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE FAMILIES FIRST CHILDCARE PRE-SCHOOL TOILET TRAINING POLICY:

CHILD'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____