

# Potty Training Policy

A child is considered potty trained when he/she recognizes the need to eliminate and can access and use the toilet with little to no help. 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. Most preschool teachers will not have the time nor the ability to remind every child to use the restroom regularly. Therefore, children should know when they need to use it and keep themselves clean. Moreover, they should be able to dress and undress in case of an accident.

Children enrolled in preschool must be toilet trained before attending preschool. Children must be able to wear underwear accident free. A child in pull-ups experiencing accidents daily would not be considered toilet trained. Please note children in pull-ups are NOT considered toilet trained.

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.

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.

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

- Communicate to teachers when he/she needs to use the restroom before they need to go
- Alert 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.

We certainly will ask your child many times throughout the day, at regular transitions, and before nap time if he/she needs to use the bathroom. A teacher will assist children as needed, but children should be able to complete toileting activities independently. This is an issue which protects all concerned. It is common for a child who is fully toilet trained to have a setback when he/she is in an unfamiliar environment. Preschool staff are aware of this and will assist the children when necessary. 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. Parents will be notified if a child has a toileting accident.

We understand that each child arrives at this milestone differently, therefore we will allow 4 weeks from the first day of preschool for your child to demonstrate accomplishment of this goal. However, if the situation is not manageable within the classroom environment, we will discuss the issue with the parents and will reserve the right to suspend attendance of the child at such time. A child will not be considered toilet trained for our preschool program if the child has more than one bowel or bladder accident after the first 4 weeks enrolled in the preschool.

If your child is not potty trained at entry to preschool, the rate of childcare will remain at \$750 until the child is fully potty trained or not experiencing more than one accident a month.

If you believe your child is accident free, but after 4 weeks in the preschool program, your child is having more than one accident a month, the rate of childcare will increase to \$750 until the child is accident free for one month. This increase will help offset the prohibitive cost of additional staff needed to provide for the strict standards required for sanitation and to maintain high quality instruction for the other children in the program.

If your child is not fully potty trained but you would prefer a standard preschool enrollment rate of \$500/month, then the following policies will be in place for children who have accidents:

- If one or two accidents occur in one week, the parents will be notified with the understanding that the issue needs to be addressed and corrected.
- If three or more accidents occur in one week, the parent will be notified with the understanding that if the issue is not corrected by the end of the second week the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained.
- If multiple accidents occur in one day, the parent will be notified on that day; and if not corrected by day three, the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained.

Please note this policy is not in place to shame or punish a child or to inconvenience primary caregivers. Rather, cleaning accidents in the preschool setting are time consuming, and the time teachers spend attending to and cleaning accidents is time they are not spending interacting with children and facilitating the curriculum safely.

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: \_\_\_\_\_