

Potty Training Policy at Little Learners

Toilet training is a big issue for any day care facility because keeping classrooms clean is critical. Frequent toileting accidents by children wearing just underwear creates problems with both hygiene and supervision of the group. We are sharing with you some important information about toilet training so we can all be on the same page.

We have some basic non-negotiable policies related to training that we must live by to remain healthy and to maintain our child care license. I would like also to share with you some ideas and experiences to help your training process, should you choose to read those. This may sound awfully official but honestly this is all to help make this go easily for everyone.

Important policy: We don't put children into underwear until they have been COMPLETELY accident free here and at home for two full weeks.

This is an absolute non-negotiable policy and is considered sound day care practice throughout the industry. Once a child is successful for two full weeks HERE and at home, accidents are rare. This policy must be strictly enforced to maintain the health of all using the facility. We must practice infection control standards that maintain the cleanliness of the floors, furniture, and inventory of the day care.

Even an accident discovered immediately means a child most likely soaks their shoes, and socks if used. There is a puddle of urine - or worse - on the floor, urine soaked footsteps in the room, and perhaps a soaked spot from the child sitting. Even if noticed immediately, it may only take seconds to mean we must scour the whole floor, some of the furniture, and some toys. Once it's discovered, we have to clean the entire room. When children soil their underwear it is a very big mess to clean up and creates a supervision issue.

Important policy: nap time training:

We require nap diapers or pull ups until the child has slept through nap for one full month without an accident. Sometimes kids nap train right away when they are awake time

trained. Most children are not able to do this and it is many months and sometimes years before they are nap trained.

What to wear during training:

Children should wear easy on and off pants during training. Soft, elastic waist bottoms are best. Please don't dress your training child in overalls.

Diapers are best for beginners; pull ups work for children at the one week mark without accidents. Pull ups must be open-at-the-side style. We can do the training with the underwear over the pull up during the training if that's working for you. If the child has regular accidents in underwear we **MUST switch them back to diapers or pull ups and try again when they have been accident free at home and at preschool for two full weeks.**

Some kids are easily potty trained during long vacations and holiday breaks. Parents have the time to do the intense work and supervision. Parents can allow the child to be in underwear for many consecutive days. **If successful at home they still must remain in diapers and be accident free for two weeks HERE.** They can come in underwear with pull-ups when they return from the long break. That way, they will have a protective layer over the underwear to protect the room should they revert back to accidents. We will let you know how they are doing every day.

Thanks and let me know if you have any questions or want to discuss it further. See our web site for potty training tips, or ask us for the handout if you'd like to read further.