

# Toilet Training Policy

Toilet training is the gradual process of moving children from nappies to pants/underpants. As we all know, the start of toilet training is a major milestone for a child. It can be a difficult time and there will, of course, be accidents. However, like all other major milestones in a child's development, it is a stage that must not be rushed.

The staff will start thinking about toilet training when a child reaches 18 to 24 months. Most of the children will be in our Little Owls Unit during this time however, some will have moved onto our Tawny Owls or Eagle Owls Units. Spring/Summer is an easier time to start as children wear fewer clothes to take off and wash and dry.

At nursery we understand that praise is very important when there are successful trips to the toilet. There will be occasional accidents and we will always deal with these in a calm and sympathetic way which does not make the child think they have done wrong. We will NEVER show disapproval to the child. We will always reassure the child if they have had an accident without making a fuss.

Charts and sticker rewards can be a good way to encourage children to let us all know when they need to use the toilet and we are happy to use either or both of these methods to encourage the children.

Some signs to look out for that may indicate a child may be ready to toilet train could be:-

- they know when they are wet or dirty and will tell us;
- they do not like being wet or dirty;
- the gap between wetting is at least an hour;
- they may indicate prior to going that they want to go.

The nursery's aim is to work closely in partnership with parents/carers during this stage in the child's development in a calm and understanding way.

**Related Documents: Toilet Training Procedure  
All About Me- Toilet Training Form**

**All policy documents are subject to regular review.  
This policy was reviewed: July 2014**

# Toilet Training Procedure

## WHAT WE WILL DO:

- In relation to toilet training and from the age of 18 months onwards we will continually assess:
  - ✓ A child's communication skills in order for us to understand their need to go to the toilet.
  - ✓ A child's understanding about toileting – do they want to use the toilet like some of their friends do.
  - ✓ A child's toileting behaviour – do they show signs of not liking wearing a nappy or being wet or soiled.
- Discuss with parent/carer if a child shows any signs of being ready for toilet training and if they feel this would be a good time to start.
- Give encouragement, confidence and support to parents/carers to start toilet training.
- Complete an '**All About Me - Toilet Training Form**' with the parent/carer so routines and triggers are recorded and give the parent/carer a copy.
- Work with parents/carers to toilet train their child.
- Encourage children to let staff know when they are passing urine or having a bowel motion. Awareness that this has happened usually comes before the awareness that the child needs to go.
- Make sure all other staff working with the child are told that the child is toilet training and bring their attention to the completed form.
- Store the form in a confidential but accessible place.
- Endeavour to maintain privacy at all times.
- Give children access to the potty or toilet with full staff supervision at intervals as discussed on the form.
- Liaise with parents/carers on a regular basis as to their child's progress.
- Set up and complete a Toileting Chart and make sure parents/carers have access to this if required.
- Praise and encourage the child when they have used the potty or toilet as this is a very important part of toilet training.
- Never show disapproval to the child. Always reassure the child if they have had an accident without making a fuss.
- Ask parents/carers to come prepared with at least 3 to 4 changes of clothing (bottoms and socks) – especially in the first week.

A reward system with 'stickers' can be used at nursery. We will not reward a child with chocolate, sweets or toys.

Accidents will be recorded and parents/carers will be notified of accidents when they come to collect their child. We will also give parents/carers regular updates on their child's progress. If the child is not progressing well, there is no harm in the child going back to nappies until they are ready. False starts are very common.

## WHAT WE ASK PARENTS/CARERS TO DO:

- Let us know as soon as you have decided the time may be right to start toilet training.
- Discuss this with your child's Key Worker (or Room Leader). This is best done during the day and not during our busy open and close times so you can both sit down uninterrupted and discuss and complete an '**All About Me Toilet Training Form**'.
- Try where possible to stick to the routine you have discussed with us.
- Let us know as soon as possible of any changes to your child's routines.
- Please do not use pull-ups where possible as these can let the child think they have a nappy on.
- Please dress your child in easy to remove clothing with no belts.
- Bring in at least 3 to 4 changes of clothing if your child stays all day or 2 changes of clothing if your child attends either a morning or afternoon session – especially during the first couple of weeks.
- Wet wipes are important and should be kept in your child's bag during this time in case of accidents.

### **NURSERY LIMITATIONS:**

The nursery does have its limitations and unfortunately we are unable to:

- Start toilet training without parents/carers support.
- Start toilet training prior to the child starting at home.
- Continue toilet training if we consider it is too upsetting or making the child feel anxious.
- Continue toilet training if we do not have a sufficient number of changes of clothing in the child's bag. We do have spare nursery clothing but this is very limited.
- Continue toilet training where a child has had more than 3 wet accidents or 2 dirty accidents in concession during a morning or afternoon session. This is rare, however we must consider the other children in the nursery and we are also limited with staff ratios. If this is the case we will telephone the parent/carer to give them the choice to either:
  - a. Leave the child at nursery however they will need to be put back into a nappy, or
  - b. Collect their child and continue toilet training at home for the rest of the day.

**Related Documents: Toilet Training Policy  
All About Me- Toilet Training Form**

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This policy was reviewed: July 2014**