

POTTY REQUIREMENTS

We are excited to start our new school year in August and look forward to a fun and exciting year. A requirement of enrollment is that each child must be independent in the bathroom. This is not something we teach but must be mastered before the start of school.

A child who has mastered potty training is a child who self-initiates (does not need reminders) using the bathroom and can do the following:

- Communicate with adults other than parents that they must go to the bathroom before they need to go.
- Internally recognizes they must go to the bathroom and stops what they are doing to vocalize they have to go.
- Can enter a bathroom stall by themselves and without resistance.
- Pulls down clothes and gets them back up without assistance.
- Wipes themselves up with toilet paper without assistance after a bowel movement.
- Washes and dries hands.

To help our students have a successful start to their preschool experience, here are a few bathroom things to practice with your child during the months of May-July.

1. **No Pull-Ups. Underwear only.**
2. **Introduce boys to a urinal and help them learn how to stand up to pee.** Our boys' bathrooms have urinals, and it helps with any bathroom anxiety if they use a urinal with their parents before school starts.
3. **Have your child practice wiping themselves. We do not wipe children,** so they need to be comfortable doing it themselves with regular toilet paper. If they have a bowel movement accident, parents will be called to come clean up their child before the child can return to class.
4. **Make sure that your child can vocalize that they must go.** Anytime that a child tells us that they need to go to the bathroom, we will take them regardless of whether it is our bathroom time or not. We understand little ones have little bladders, so we are very quick to respond if they ask.
5. **Our bathrooms are community bathrooms with stalls. Please practice going into a bathroom stall at Walmart, Target, etc., all by themselves. They should be able to pull up/down their underwear/pants/shorts without any assistance.** Do not dress your child in clothes that are difficult for them to pull up such as pants with belts, tight jeans, overalls, or one-piece jumpers. Elastic waists are the best.
6. **Remind them to keep all their *other* clothes on while using the bathroom.** We occasionally have children who remove all their clothes including shoes and socks when they need to go to the bathroom. Please help them to remember to keep clothed.
7. **Discuss privacy with your child.** Children should not look around at other children, crawl under the stalls, or peek through doors.

Should a child 3 have accidents within a month, their enrollment will be suspended, and they will not be able to return to school until they have mastered independent bathroom time. If there is another accident after they have returned, their enrollment will be discontinued for the remainder of the school year. To hold your spot during bathroom suspension, tuition must still be paid monthly.

We want all our students to feel confident and successful from the start. If your child is not independent by the start of school, we suggest it might be best if they waited to attend until they are ready. We are happy to refund 50% of your registration fee if your child is not bathroom ready, you contact us by the end of July, and I am able to fill your child's spot with someone from our waiting list. No refund after school has started. You can contact us when your child is ready, and we would be happy to accept them if we still have space available or add them to the wait list.

Thank you for taking the time to work with your children this summer to help them be independent in the bathroom. Children respond better to learning this from their parents rather than a teacher they do not know well. This will make for a smooth and anxiety-free transition to preschool potty time.