

POTTY AND TOILETING POLICY

Children all develop at different rates, so there's no set age at which they should start using a potty or toilet. The NHS website has helpful information on when and how to start. We follow each child's lead and work closely with parents to decide when is the right time.

WHEN CAN A CHILD START USING A POTTY OR TOILET AT OUR SETTING?

Toilet training needs to start at home first.

It's up to parents and carers to begin the process.

Once your child has been trying at home for around one to two weeks and is having some success, we'll then support it here too.

Children also need to be able to vocalise their needs and tell us when needing the toilet. We will encourage and ask children to go to the toilet regularly, especially before outings, meals, etc. but we cannot ask a child to go regularly due to activities with other children.

We don't use potties at our setting. We've found it's easier for children to learn directly on the toilet, but we completely support your choice to use a potty at home.

Please let us know before you start so we can work together and support your

child consistently between home and setting.

WHAT TOILETING FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR SETTING?

Children have access to:

- A bathroom with a toilet
- A step stool to help them reach the toilet
- A sink with hand soap and paper towels

HOW MUCH SUPERVISION WILL CHILDREN BE GIVEN?

Children are always supervised when using the toilet and will be helped with undressing and redressing if needed.

As they grow more confident, some children will start to go to the toilet on their own. This is part of their independence. We'll still be nearby and will always check they're safe and clean, but we'll give them that space when they're ready.

Children will be encouraged to wipe themselves, but we'll help when needed to make sure they're clean and comfortable.

PROMOTING PRIVACY, DIGNITY & CONFIDENCE (SEPTEMBER 2025 UPDATE)

In line with EYFS 2025 guidance, we are committed to giving children the chance to develop confidence and

independence during toileting, while also respecting their privacy and dignity.

- We will never leave a child alone if they need support, but we will offer appropriate privacy as they become more independent.
- Children are supported to shut the bathroom door or have it slightly open depending on their needs and confidence.
- Children often learn by watching others and may feel more confident using the toilet if a trusted adult or peer is nearby.
- Because of this, privacy will be offered as an option rather than a strict rule. Some children may want space, and others may prefer to be near others—both choices are respected.
- Accidents or help with wiping will always be handled calmly, respectfully and without judgement.
- All care is done in a way that protects the child's comfort, confidence and personal space.

SHOULD A CHILD WEAR PULL-UPS OR UNDERWEAR AT OUR SETTING?

Children can wear either pull-ups or underwear—whatever they're used to and most comfortable in. Pull-ups can be helpful if your child still naps and doesn't wake when wet.

If a child attends in underwear but still naps, we can change into pull-ups if requested.

WHAT EXTRA RESOURCES WILL BE NEEDED?

Please provide:

- Plenty of spare clothes (in case of accidents)
- Nappies or pull-ups if your child still needs them for naps

WHAT IF A CHILD IS UNSUCCESSFUL USING A POTTY OR TOILET?

We will provide daily feedback on your child's progress with toilet training at our setting.

If either of us feels that things are not progressing as expected, we can discuss next steps.

Occasional accidents are normal and part of the process. However, if accidents become frequent, we may pause toilet training until a later date to prevent distress for the child or disruption to the care of other children.

A collaborative plan with parents/carers will be created if difficulties arise.

Some children may start to regress back to wetting themselves for various reasons, including not being ready, to young, unexpected changes or trauma in life and many other reasons.

If so, we will discuss plans to help cope with this regression at the time.

CAN REWARDS BE USED TO ENCOURAGE MY CHILD?

If you find that a reward system helps motivate your child, we are happy to use a shared system like a reward chart to reinforce positive progress.

WHAT HYGIENE PRACTICES ARE FOLLOWED AT OUR SETTING?

Children will be taught proper handwashing techniques and will be required to wash their hands with soap and water after every toilet visit, regardless of success.

Adults will also wash their hands after assisting children with toileting.

We maintain a clean and hygienic bathroom area and conduct regular risk assessments to ensure a safe environment.

WHAT WILL CHILDREN DO ON OUTINGS?

All children will be encouraged to use the toilet before leaving the setting.

For long journeys, children who are not fully confident may wear nappies or pull-ups.

We will make frequent toilet stops during outings and remind children to use the facilities when we arrive, before leaving, and periodically while out.

When out in forest or other settings, children may do a “wild wee” where we help them toilet in a private place but without using a toilet.

We always carry spare clothes and nappies in case of accidents.

Privacy may be changed to ensure children are safe more than private, so children may go to toilets as a group due to keeping everyone safe.

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