

Now that your child is 18 months...

Toilet training

Typically initial signs of toilet training readiness will be to appear around 18 months, (alerting you to a dirty diaper, interest in the toilet, and children may even begin to use the toilet occasionally). These signs can be very exciting for parents, and while they are a sign of progress - they don't indicate readiness to toilet train. There is typically a 6-12 month span between when a child begins using the toilet to them being 100% ready.

Toilet training is a gradual process that will typically begin around 18 months and ends around 2.5-3. We ask that the beginning stages of toilet training be initiated and handled at home, ***until a child is ready to begin using the toilet full-time***. Every child develops differently, but we do expect children to be fully toilet trained around their 3rd birthday.

Over the past 2 years, we have had over 15 children toilet train in our care. The average age was 32 months, with the youngest child being 29 months and the oldest being 36 months old.

The toilet training process should begin with you at home, during its initial stages. **When you feel your child is ready to begin using the toilet full-time**, let us know and we will discuss his/her readiness. If we both agree that the child is ready (can complete the entire toileting process by themselves), they can begin wearing training pants (must have a plastic, waterproof outer) or pull-ups at daycare. Your child's time in training pants at daycare, **is not a substitution for potty training at home**, your child should thoroughly understand the process of toileting before they wear training pants to daycare.

Before your child begins toilet training at daycare, they MUST have the following established:

- Be aware of bowel and bladder fullness. (**Before** elimination).
- Have the muscle development to control elimination.
- Have the language and locomotor skills to signal the need to the caregivers.
- Have the gross and fine motor skills to get to the toilet on time, remove clothing, use the toilet, and redress themselves. Your child should be able to complete the ENTIRE TOILETING PROCESS on their own. *If these skills are not in place, or your child does not have the maturity level to go to and from the bathroom unassisted they will need to use the training toilet.*

We strongly believe in Lora Jensen's 3 day potty training method. It is nearly as gimmicky as it sounds. It is actually very simple, and focuses on toilet LEARNING, instead of "training". At it's simplest, it involves taking your child out of diapers, and using action/consequence to allow them to feel the unpleasant sensation of being wet after urinating. Once a child is ready, this method gets done in a few days what other methods take months to accomplish. If a child is ready, this concept works very well and quickly.

We would HIGHLY recommend trying a intensive method, like the 3 day one, before sending your child to daycare in training pants. It serves as an excellent jump-start, and drastically reduces the chances of having a long, drawn out, toilet training experience.

- Your child will need to wear training pants for two-weeks without having an accident before they can wear underwear to daycare. If your child is making no progress, or training pants are not holding waste in a sanitary method, we reserve the right to request your child return to diapers.
- We WILL NOT practice "toilet timing" which involves bringing the child to the toilet every X amount of time, and catching them before they urinate. This is a completely different concept than toilet training, is not very effective, and impossible to do while caring for the other children. We take potty breaks throughout the day, at natural transition times, typically 9:00, 10:45, 12:00, and 3:00, but reminding and bringing children to the toilet more frequently than that, is not within our capabilities.
- Please do not send your child in cloth underwear until they have bowel and bladder control established.
- In this daycare, a child is not considered toilet trained if they are still having frequent accidents. Children who have more than one accident every two weeks will be expected to wear training pants, until they remain accident free for two weeks. Under no circumstances will a child who is having frequent accidents be allowed to wear cloth underpants.