

Toilet Training Policy



Grass Roots Nursery Group: Toilet Training Policy

Philosophy and Partnership

We believe that toilet training is a significant milestone in a child's development. Our goal is to provide a relaxed, positive, and supportive environment to ensure success. We view toilet training as a partnership between the nursery and the home; therefore, positive reinforcement and consistency must be maintained in both environments.

Readiness Criteria

To ensure the child is developmentally prepared, we require the following before beginning the process at nursery:

- **Age:** The child must be at least 18 months old.
- **Consultation:** Parents must first discuss readiness with the child's key person.
- **Developmental Signs:** The child should demonstrate physical and psychological readiness, such as staying dry for long periods, showing interest in the potty, and the ability to follow simple instructions.

Responsive Prompting & Support

Rather than following a fixed clock-based schedule, our staff uses a responsive approach to support your child:

- **Observation:** Staff watch for individual signs of "needing to go," such as fidgeting or pausing during play.
- **Prompts:** We use gentle verbal prompts and gestures to encourage the child to use the potty based on their current needs and sensations.
- **Independence:** We encourage the child to take responsibility for pulling their own pants up and down to build confidence and autonomy.
- **Hygiene:** Soiled clothes will be returned in a plastic bag at the end of the day.

Parental Responsibilities (Clothing & Supplies)

To support the child's independence, please ensure your child is dressed in "**User-friendly**" clothing:

- **Recommended:** Shorts and trousers with elastic waists are best.
- **Avoid:** Please do not dress your child in belts, dungarees, one-piece outfits, or trousers with buttons and zips, as these hinder the child's ability to reach the potty in time.
- **Required Supplies:** A minimum of seven (7) changes of clothing (including tops, pants, knickers/underpants, and socks) must be kept at the nursery.

Resources and Support

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We recommend parents visit [ERIC \(The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity\)](#) for additional evidence-based advice. All parents must sign the [Home – Nursery Toilet Training Agreement](#) before we begin the transition from nappies at the nursery.