Toilet Training Policy

Grass Roots Nursery Group
Updated September 2026

1. Policy Statement

Grass Roots Nursery Group recognises toilet training as a significant developmental milestone that supports children's independence, bodily autonomy, and self-esteem. We are committed to providing a relaxed, positive, and supportive environment where children feel safe, confident, and respected.
Toilet training is viewed as an active partnership between home and nursery. Consistency, encouragement, and open communication across both environments are essential for a successful, stress-free transition.

2. Purpose & Scope

This policy ensures:

- toilet training is child-led, developmentally appropriate, and responsive
- staff use gentle, supportive language and Emotion Coaching
- parents and practitioners work collaboratively
- hygiene, dignity, and safeguarding standards are upheld
- children's independence is encouraged without pressure
- toileting information is logged accurately and shared appropriately

This policy applies to:

- all employees
- apprentices and students
- volunteers
- agency staff
- parents/carers

It covers:

- readiness criteria
- responsive prompting
- hygiene routines
- clothing expectations
- home–nursery agreements
- digital logging and safeguarding escalation

3. Statutory Framework & Reference Guidance

This policy operates in full compliance with:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (DfE, 2026)
- Health Protection in Children and Young People Settings (UKHSA Infection Control Guidance)
- ERIC (The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity) Best Practice Guidance

4. Operational Procedures

A. Readiness Criteria

To ensure a child is developmentally prepared, practitioners and parents look for physical and psychological readiness markers before beginning toilet training at nursery:

- **Age Standard:** Children must be at least 18 months old.
- **Key Person Discussion:** Parents must discuss readiness with the Key Person before removing nappies at nursery.
- **Developmental Signs:**
    - staying dry for longer intervals
    - awareness of wet/soiled nappies
    - communicating toilet needs (verbally or through gestures)
    - showing interest in the potty or toilet

B. Responsive Prompting & Classroom Practice

Grass Roots does **not** use rigid, clock-based potty schedules. Practitioners support children responsively:

Observation & Cues

Staff observe non-verbal signs such as fidgeting, dancing, holding clothes, or pausing during play.

Responsive Prompts

Gentle verbal prompts, visual aids, and gestures encourage children to use the potty based on their needs and sensations.

Relational Support

Emotion Coaching is used to support children through accidents without shame, frustration, or pressure.

Building Independence

Children are encouraged to pull their pants down and up, fostering self-care confidence and autonomy.

Hygiene Routines

Children wash their hands with liquid soap and running water after every attempt or use. Staff ensure children remain clean, comfortable, and fresh.

C. Parental Responsibilities & Home–Nursery Agreement

1. User-Friendly Clothing Expectations

To support independence, parents should dress children in easy-to-manage clothing:

Recommended:

- elasticated trousers, leggings, shorts

Avoid:

- belts
- dungarees
- all-in-one suits
- tight zips or buttons

These items impede independence and increase avoidable accidents.

2. Required Clothing & Bagged Items

Parents must provide:

Seven (7) complete changes of clothing

- (tops, underwear, socks, trousers/leggings)

Handling Soiled Clothing

Wet or soiled clothing will be placed unrinsed into a sealed plastic bag and sent home the same day.

3. Formal Agreement
All parents must complete and sign the **Home–Nursery Toilet Training Agreement** with their Key Person before starting the transition.

D. Digital Logging & Safeguarding

Famly Logging
Daily toileting attempts, successes, and clothing changes are logged on Famly for parent visibility.

CPOMS Escalation
Any unusual physical marks, skin conditions, or extreme distress during toileting must be documented on CPOMS and reported to the DSL (Emma Ford) in line with the Safeguarding Policy.

5. Monitoring & Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if guidance, best practice, or operational needs change. The Nursery Manager and DSL are responsible for ensuring consistent implementation across all settings.

6. Linked Policies

- Intimate Care Framework Policy
- Nappy Changing Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Inclusion & SEND Policy