

Written February 2022

Reviewed by KC 19.04.23

TOILET TRAINING POLICY

Introduction

Our Nursery is dedicated to supporting the healthy development of all children in our care. This Toilet Training Policy is designed to ensure a gentle, child-led approach to toilet training, prioritising the comfort, health, and emotional well-being of the children. Our approach is based on encouragement rather than coercion, fostering a positive and stress-free transition from potty to toilet use.

Guiding Principles

1. **Child-Led and Gentle Approach:** We believe in following the child's lead in toilet training, acknowledging that each child is unique and reaches developmental milestones at their own pace.
2. **Health and Comfort Priority:** The comfort and health of the child are paramount. We are committed to a process that is non-forceful and responsive to the individual needs of each child.
3. **Encouragement:** Our goal is to encourage the transition from nappy use to the toilet in a supportive manner, utilising child seats for toilets to aid in this transition while ensuring safety and building independence.

Policy Details

Readiness for Toilet Training

- Toilet training will not commence until it is clear that a child is physically and emotionally ready to start the process. Signs of readiness include the ability to communicate the need to use the toilet, discomfort with soiled diapers, the physical ability to access the toilet (with aids) independently and interest in using the toilet.
- Children who are not physically able to access a toilet (with a child seat) or show discomfort with the process will not be pressured into toilet training. Children past the age of 30 months who are still resistant will be assessed and Humming Bees, parents and potentially third party support will work together to implement a reasonable plan.

Age Considerations

- While we recognize the variability in development among children, research suggests that beginning toilet training later than the 24-30 month stage may not be ideal for bowel health.

Therefore, we encourage starting the process when the child shows signs of physical and emotional readiness, aligning with NHS guidelines on potty training .

Collaboration with Families

- We will solicit and follow guidance from home regarding toilet training practices and preferences. Communication between nursery staff and families is crucial to ensure a cohesive approach.

Positive Reinforcement

- Staff will use positive reinforcement and encouragement to support children through the toilet training process. This includes verbal praise, stickers, or small rewards as appropriate, always focusing on the effort and progress rather than just success.

Respect for the Child's Pace

- We recognize that setbacks and accidents are a natural part of the learning process. Our staff will handle such incidents calmly and reassuringly, without expressing disappointment or frustration.

Health and Hygiene

- We will teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices, such as washing hands after using the toilet, in a child-friendly and accessible manner.

Resources and Guidance

For more detailed guidance on recognizing readiness signs and tips for toilet training, we refer to the NHS's comprehensive guide on potty training: [NHS Potty Training Guide](<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/potty-training-and-bedwetting/how-to-potty-train/>).

Review and Adjustments

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Acknowledgment

By enrolling your child in our Nursery, you acknowledge and agree to our Toilet Training Policy. We look forward to partnering with you in this important developmental stage of your child's life.