

Immaculate Conception Preschool Toileting Policy

All preschool-aged students attending Immaculate Conception Preschool must be fully toilet trained. This includes self-care after using the bathroom facilities. Children may not wear diapers or pull-ups during the school day. Staff members are not permitted to assist with wiping. Children should come to school in clothes that allow for ease in the toileting process. Elastic waistbands are much easier than buttons, zippers, and belts. This is not only a stage of learning but also a stage of independence. Please help your child feel confident in their learning by dressing them appropriately. Additionally, following an accident, a student must be able to dress themselves independently.

A toilet-trained child can:

- Communicate to adults that they need to use the restroom before it becomes urgent.
- Stop what they are doing to use the restroom.
- Dress and undress without assistance.
- Wipe themselves after using the bathroom.
- Get on and off the toilet without help.
- Wash and dry their hands.
- Postpone using the restroom if they have to wait briefly or if they are away from the classroom.

Why do children need to be toilet trained before they begin preschool?

There are strict licensing standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers and pull-ups. Our classrooms are not equipped or licensed for this. Additionally, when a student requires assistance with changing soiled clothing, it removes one adult from direct supervision during interaction with the rest of the class.

We understand that even toilet-trained children occasionally have accidents. By definition, “accidents” are rare incidents that happen infrequently. In these cases, staff

members will help preschoolers with their clothing as needed, encouraging independence as much as possible. This policy is in place to prevent potential misconduct and protect staff members against allegations of inappropriate behavior.

If accidents become a regular occurrence (more than three accidents in one week), we reserve the right to remove the child from the class and hold the registered spot for two weeks, but the child will not be able to attend school until they are fully trained. *This excludes the first two weeks of school.*

It is not uncommon for a child who is fully toilet trained to experience a setback when they are in a new environment. Preschool staff understand this and will assist as needed.

Please note that this policy is not in place to shame or punish a child or to inconvenience primary caregivers. Rather, cleaning accidents in the preschool setting is time-consuming, time that we would prefer to spend interacting with and educating students. Most importantly, this policy is intended to ensure the safety and well-being of both students and staff at Immaculate Conception Preschool.

Family responsibilities

- Provide at least two complete changes of clothes
- Maintain consistency between home and program approaches
- Replace soiled clothing and supplies as needed

Program responsibilities

- Provide positive encouragement and support
- Maintain clean, child-friendly bathroom facilities
- Handle accidents with patience and understanding
- Follow all health and safety protocols during toileting accidents

When accidents occur, staff will:

- Respond calmly and reassuringly to help the child feel comfortable
- Assist the child with cleaning up and changing clothes
- Store soiled items in red waste bags for families to take home
- Sanitize the affected area according to health department guidelines