



EduKids

The SCOOP: *A New Monthly Email for EduKids Parents*

Potty Training at EduKids

At EduKids, we feel very strongly that solid connections and positive relationships between families and centers are critical. All research tells us that this early bond builds confidence in families to be part of their child's formal school settings in kindergarten and beyond. We also know that the center, classroom and teaching staff absolutely serve your child and you better when we have on-going conversations and share the same goals and aspirations for the same child.

And we all know that one of those goals is that they successfully use the toilet. Let's be honest. This is a primary goal for toddlers and by 3 the goal is few accidents, if any.

Next to you, but running a very close second, we are rooting for your little one to independently use the bathroom at the center. We really are.

Our staff is highly trained in the proper procedure to change diapers and follow licensing health and safety regulations. Children are changed as needed as well as checked and changed every 2 hours. These procedures are posted in your child's classroom. Diaper changing is tracked in the Infant Journals and there is also a diaper changing tracking sheet in toddler rooms.

So what does this look like in classrooms of young friends who are all in diapers, most in diapers and some in underpants, most in underpants and some in diapers or all in underpants with some having accidents? Whew that's a lot of diapers and underpants to consider.

Baby Ducks are infants. Diapers it is!

Yellow Ducks are very young toddlers. We have a diaper changing table in this room. Our expectation is that these little ones are in diapers. Every once in a while a Yellow Duck will be potty trained and if they are, we will take them to the bathroom whenever needed. We count on families to tell us their schedule because of limited language. We will continue to support this potty schedule.

Purple Dinos are older toddlers. Many Purple Dinos turn 3 in this group. Here is the group where potty training is actually considered a curriculum because it is a large part of the program and classroom activities and focus. Along with you, our teams talk with children about using the bathroom and wearing underpants. We have a changing table in the room as well as a bathroom schedule – some children just go in the bathroom and sit then wash their hands and get a new diaper, but this is all learning the process. A consistent message is supported; *Potty time and using the toilet is easy and just something everyone does.* We do not use gimmicks or bribes as this is just a distraction. Pull Ups are diapers that look like underpants and children have already learned that diapers can be wet and underpants are to keep dry – Pull Ups send a mixed message. We do not use them or recommend pull ups. We present potty use as a fact of life and encourage and cheer on new successes through claps and thumbs up. We have a lot of patience and we are

confident children will learn to *flush & wash hands*. We change wet underwear and put on dry outfits all of the time – not to worry! Once your child sends the *I'm ready* messages then go to the underwear and be consistent. Success is waiting!

Blue Birds are 3 year olds. Our 3 year old classrooms do not have changing tables. We do take children to the bathrooms on a steady schedule and as needed all day long. Expectation is that children are at least in underwear with even beginning success. We will work with you on predictable schedules and consistent messages. Again, going to the bathroom, using the toilet and washing your hands becomes a fact of life and routine for your child. Success!

Preschool is a 4 year old kindergarten readiness class. Underpants it is!

Some notes:

- Fancy and favorite character underpants help.
- Children are successful during “awake” times before they are successful sleeping.
- Girls typically train before boys.
- Children with older potty siblings train early.
- If you are concerned about your child, consult your pediatrician.
- Children will have accidents.
- Always praise, never scold during potty training.