

Thomas Hart Academy Toilet Training Policy

Two Year Old Program: The 2 year old class students are not required to be toilet trained. The teachers will assist the parents in the toilet training process of two year old children beginning the second semester of school. Toilet training will be undertaken at the school when the child is able to ask to go to the bathroom. Positive approaches to potty training are utilized. Several changes of clothes must be sent in case of accidents. Pull ups must be worn outside of the classroom and during special area activities. Modesty and personal hygiene are encouraged as children are trained to finish dressing while still in the bathroom and to wash their hands when done.

All children entering 3k, 4k, and 5k must be toilet trained before attending school. Children must be wearing underwear. A child having accidents daily would not be considered potty trained. Please note that wearing pull ups is NOT considered toilet trained.

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

- There are strict standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers/ pull ups and our 3k, 4k, and 5k classrooms are not equipped for this.
- There are strict student to teacher ratios the school must follow in the preschool classrooms. When an adult is out of the classroom changing soiled clothing it creates an out of ratio situation. Only DSS licensed teachers can work in a preschool classroom.
- When an adult is busy changing soiled clothing, it is taking away from the learning time for all students and it removes one adult from direct supervision of an interaction with the rest of the class.

We do understand that even toilet trained children will occasionally have accidents. By definition, “accidents” are unusual incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, the teachers will help children change their clothes, encouraging independence as much as possible.

A Toilet trained child is a child who can do the following:

- Communicate to teachers that he/ she needs to go to the restroom **before** they need to go.
- Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing, to go and use the bathroom.
- Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up with little to no assistance.
- Wipe him/herself after using the toilet (with minimal assistance for 3 year olds and with no assistance for 4 and 5 year olds.)
- Get on/off the toilet by him/herself.
- Wash and dry hands.
- Postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or if the class is away from the classroom.

- Wake up during nap time should they need to use the bathroom.

We certainly will ask your child many times throughout the day and before nap time if they need to use the bathroom. A teacher will assist children as needed, but children should be able to complete toileting activities independently. This is an issue that protects all concerned.

It is not uncommon for a child who is fully toilet trained to have a setback when he/she is in a new environment. Preschool staff are aware of this and will assist the children when necessary. Please have your child dressed in clothing that he/she can manage independently. Please send a complete change of clothes appropriate for the season. These will be left at school in case of accidents and returned at the end of the school year. Parents will be notified if a child has a toileting accident.

We understand that each child arrives at this milestone differently, therefore we will allow four weeks from the first day of 3K for your child to demonstrate accomplishment of this goal. However, if the situation is not manageable within the classroom environment, we will discuss the issue with the parents and reserve the right to suspend attendance of the child at such time, **OR** 3K students who are not potty trained may be placed back into the 2K classroom until such time as they are fully trained. Please understand, this will be dependent upon classroom space in 2K.

Please note that this policy is not in place to shame or punish a child or inconvenience primary caregivers. Rather, cleaning accidents in the preschool setting is time consuming and this time that teachers spend attending to and cleaning accidents is time that they are not spending interacting with children and facilitating the curriculum in a safe manner. This policy is intended to ensure the safety and happiness of children and staff at Thomas Hart Academy.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Please sign and date below indicating that you have received and reviewed the Thomas Hart Academy Toilet Training Policy.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____