

Andover Early Learning Toilet Training Policy

Children enrolled in Andover Early Learning Pre-K must be toilet trained before attending preschool. Children must be wearing underwear with very few accidents. A child having multiple accidents a week is not considered toilet trained. Please note that wearing pull ups isn't considered being 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. The regular education classrooms are not equipped for diaper changing. When an adult is busy changing a child's diaper or soiled clothing, it is taking away from learning time for all students and it removes one adult from the direct supervision of and interaction with the rest of the class.

We do understand that even toilet trained children will occasionally have toileting accidents. By definition, "accidents" are unusual isolated incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, staff will instruct children to change their clothes, encouraging independence.

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

1. Communicate to the teachers that he/she needs to go to the restroom before they need to go.
2. Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing to go and use the bathroom.
3. Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up without assistance.
4. Wipe him/herself after using the toilet.
5. Get on/off the toilet by him/herself.
6. Wash and dry hands.
7. Postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or if we are away from the classroom.

We certainly will ask your child many times throughout the day and always before recess if they need to use the bathroom. We can ask them to go, but cannot force them. A staff member will offer minimal assistance in the restroom as children should be able to complete toileting activities independently. This is an issue which 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. The Early Learning staff is aware of this and will assist the children when necessary. Please dress your child in clothing that can be undone and changed easily. Please put a complete change of clothes appropriate for the season in a gallon size bag (be sure to include socks) in your child's backpack. These will be left in the backpack to be used as needed. 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 2 weeks from the first day of school 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.

If your child is not completely toilet trained (including the ability to complete toileting activities independently) as described above when preschool starts, you will need to withdraw your child from preschool and place their name on the waiting list. The deposit is non-refundable; however, if your child is re-enrolled in our program at a later date during the same school year, you will not need to pay these fees again. If you choose this option, we cannot guarantee that a space will be available.

A child will not be considered toilet trained for our preschool program if the child continues to consistently have toileting accidents and is unable to complete toileting activities independently after the first 2 weeks of school.

After the first 2 weeks of school, the following policies will be in place for children who have accidents.

1. If 2 accidents occur in one week, the parent will be notified with the understanding that the issue needs to be addressed and corrected.
2. If 2 or more accidents occur in concurrent weeks, the parent will be notified with the understanding that if the issue isn't corrected by the next week, the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained. Tuition will not be pro-rated during this time. Parents should contact the teacher to facilitate the child's return to school.
3. If multiple accidents occur in one day, the parent will be notified on that day; and if not corrected within three days the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained. Tuition will not be pro-rated during this time. Parents should contact the teacher to facilitate the child's return to school.
4. If it is apparent that the child does not understand basic toilet training activities or is unable to complete them independently, the parent will be notified with the understanding that the child must be able to independently complete toilet training tasks by the end of the following week. If this goal is not accomplished, the child will have to stay home at least 1 week or longer until he/she is able to complete using the toilet independently. Tuition will not be pro-rated during this time. Parents should contact the teacher to facilitate the child's return to school.

If toileting is a concern, a toileting log will be kept in the child's take home folder to document occurrences to ensure that both the school and guardians have the most up-to-date information.

These policies will be in effect for all Andover Early Learning Pre-K students. Exceptions to this policy will be made for students with a diagnosed medical condition on a case by case basis.