

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INDEPENDENTLY TOILET TRAINED AT ST. MICHAEL PRESCHOOL

Children enrolled in our 3, 4, and 5-year-old classes are expected to be able to use the toilet independently. In addition to scheduled toilet breaks for the entire class, the children have access and are certainly able to go to the bathroom whenever they need to. Fully toilet trained children must be able to do the following without adult assistance and minimal adult prompting:

- Be accident-free in regular underwear (**not training pants, disposable diapers, or pull-ups**) for a two-week daytime period
- Recognize and be able to tell a teacher in words that they need to use the toilet before they have to go
- Hold their toilet need until they can get to the bathroom from a classroom or the playground or while waiting in line for other children to finish using the toilet
- Get on and off the toilet mostly independently
- Pull down/up their pants/underwear or lift dress/skirt (teachers can help with difficult snaps or buttons if needed)
- Wipe themselves after using the toilet
- Flush the toilet
- Wash/dry their hands

Please be aware that performance in a preschool setting may not be the same as it is at home. With 15-18 children in the class, teachers will do their best to encourage and remind children but are not able to continuously monitor each individual child for non-verbal cues as the day's activities proceed. There are a lot of distractions at preschool with friends, toys, and fun activities that a less confident, not completely independently potty-trained child may have trouble maintaining dryness/cleanliness. We encourage you to foster this independence at home and in public.

We certainly do grant grace and will care for all children. If a child has an accident, teachers will help him/her change into dry clothes, mostly encouraging him/her to change independently. The wet/soiled clothes will be sent home in a bag. If accidents persist, parents will be called to discuss the child's readiness.

Please note that this policy is not in place to shame or punish a child or inconvenience the family. Rather, cleaning accidents in a preschool setting (the child, seat, floor/rug etc.) is time-consuming. Our 3, 4, and 5-year-old classrooms are not outfitted for this, as it takes teachers away from spending time interacting with and facilitating the entire class in a fun and safe manner. This policy is intended to ensure the safety and happiness of all children and staff at the preschool. Thank you for your support and understanding.