



Science Academy of Chicago Toilet Training Policy

Children enrolled in preschool must be toilet trained before attending preschool. Children must be wearing underwear. A child having accidents daily would not be considered toilet 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 classrooms are not equipped for this.
- When an adult is busy changing a child's 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 accidents. By definition, "accidents" are unusual incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, the teachers will help children to change their clothes, encouraging independence as much as possible.

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

- Communicate to the 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 without assistance
- Wipe him/herself after using the toilet (with minimal assistance for 3 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 we are 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 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. Preschool staff are aware of this and will assist the children when necessary.

Please have your child dressed in clothing that he/she can easily 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. **Please provide a seasonally appropriate change of clothes (pants, shirt, underwear, socks) in a Ziploc bag marked with the student's name.**

Parents will be notified if a child has a toileting accident.

A child will not be considered toilet trained for our preschool program if the child continues to consistently have toileting accidents from when starting school.

If so, the following policies will be in place for children who have accidents:

- **If one or two accidents occur in one week**, the parents will be notified with the understanding that the issue needs to be addressed and corrected.
- **If three or more accidents occur in one week**, the parent will be notified with the understanding that the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained.
- **If multiple accidents occur in one day, the parent will be notified on that day**; and if not corrected by day three, the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained.
- **If three or more accidents occur in a three week time frame**, the parent will be notified with the understanding that the child will have to stay home at least one week or longer until he/she is completely toilet trained.

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 Science Academy of Chicago**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.