



Toilet Training Procedure

Toilet training is a very important milestone for every child. Developing this skill in a supportive and positive environment promotes positive self-esteem and is an important aspect of the development of a child's self-help skills. Children require reassurance and guidance at every step to make sure that they are fully supported and encouraged during this process. Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) is committed to creating an effective partnership and strong communication with parents to give the child consistency between their home and our Centre and support families during this time.

Timing

All children are different and develop at their own pace. Generally, children aren't ready to be toilet trained until they are between 18 months and 3 years old. Children might be ready for toilet training if they have dry nappies for up to two hours, know about "wee" and "poo", and can pull their pants up and down. Try to start toilet training when there are no big changes coming up for the family. Toilet training should be started at home before toileting starts at the Centre. Communication with educators is vital to ensure awareness of each child's individual development and associated requirements.

Strategies

Toilet training can take days, months or weeks. Be patient and keep encouraging your child. Make going to the toilet part of your child's routine. Remind your child to go to the toilet and give lots of praise for trying. For more information, check <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/at-home/toilet-training-your-child/>

Educators will encourage children in all their efforts, even if they have a setback or are not entirely successful. For example, a child who has not quite made it in time to use the toilet may be reassured by a comment such as "It's great that you knew you needed to use the toilet. Maybe next time you can let me know straight away so that I can help you get to the toilet a bit more quickly." Praise and recognition are used when children are being toilet trained to encourage self-esteem and a sense of achievement. If required, another staff member is always available to provide assistance. The child's privacy is always respected.

If parents have certain practices that cannot be implemented at the Centre, educators work with parents to come up with a compromise. For example, parents may use a food treat as a reward each time their child uses the toilet. This may not be consistent with our Centre's nutritional policy so an alternative may be arranged.

Staff help create an awareness and understanding of good hygiene and the importance of self-care for example: flushing the toilet, washing hands etc.

Educators will always treat accidents sensitively. Parents should bring extra clothes for their child once toilet training begins (especially pants and underwear). This is very important because accidents do happen and your child shouldn't feel bad that they have to wear somebody else's clothes. At this age they prefer things that belong to them, and it frustrates them if they have to wear something that they do not want.

Nappy Changing

It is in the interest of the children's health and safety, that staff follow nappy changing procedures correctly and that a high standard of hygiene is evident at all times. Children's nappies and other items are stored in individual compartments and labelled accordingly. Disposable paper towels or electric hand dryers are used for hand-drying purposes. Disposable gloves are provided and worn during nappy changing, however this does not negate the need for hand washing. Soiled nappies are bagged and disposed of hygienically i.e. sanitising unit or binned and removed from the nappy changing area. The nappy changing mat is disinfected after every use. Anti-bacterial soap is provided for hand washing. Children are never left unattended when having their nappy changed. If required another staff member is always available to provide assistance. A cleaning schedule is in place to ensure that the nappy changing area is clean and hygienic at all times. To ensure that nappy changing time is a pleasant experience for the child, staff members use this opportunity to interact with the child and provide one to one attention.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff/Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow cleaning and hygiene procedures.• Preserve and promote children's self-esteem as they learn.• Communicate with parents.
Parents/Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with educators to ensure that a consistent approach is used to support children.