



Dear Tiny Tots Parents,

As you know, being an independent bathroom user is a crucial skill needed for the Tiny Tots program and later in elementary school. In Tiny Tots we work to help your child find success and build self-confidence by using the bathroom independently and regularly while in the classroom with us. Here are a few ways you can help set your child up for success with bathroom use, both in Tiny Tots and beyond:

- **Encourage Independent Bathroom Use at Home:** Have your child practice using the bathroom independently. You can still support them by standing at the doorway and offering verbal guidance (especially with wiping), but give them the chance to do it themselves first. The more they practice, the more confident they'll become, and they'll feel proud of their progress.
- **Get Comfortable with Different Bathrooms:** When you're out at stores, restaurants, or friends' houses, encourage your child to use different bathrooms. This will help them get used to new environments and feel more confident and less nervous about using unfamiliar toilets.
- **Practice with Clothes:** Continue teaching and helping your child practice pulling their pants and underwear up and down. If they need to use a step stool in the classroom bathroom, practice with one at home as well. The more they practice this skill, the more independent they'll become.
- **Choose Easy-to-Navigate Clothing:** Send your child to class in clothes they can easily manage on their own. Elastic waistbands are a great choice. Avoid zippers, buttons, overalls, and dresses that can be tricky and may cause frustration, especially when they're busy having fun! Reminder: Diapers, pull-ups, or training pants are not allowed in class.
- **Send a Change of Clothes:** If you're concerned about accidents, please pack a spare set of clothing in a labeled plastic bag. If an accident occurs, we'll return soiled items in the bag. Please note that while we will verbally assist your child, we cannot enter the bathroom to change them or clean them. This is why practicing at home is so important!

We understand that accidents can happen as children work on mastering this skill. However, due to the nature of our part-time program, we are not equipped to handle full bathroom training or cleanup. If your child has a urine accident and has a clean change of clothes, we'll guide them through changing themselves. If their clothing, shoes, or body remains soiled, or if they have multiple accidents, we'll contact you to pick them up for the day. In the case of a bowel movement accident, we will automatically contact you for pickup.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to keep our classroom a healthy, sanitary, and safe environment for everyone.

We truly appreciate your partnership at home, and remember to celebrate all the small wins along the way! Every success, big or small, makes a difference in building greater independence.

Warmly,

Sheryl Savord
Community Services Specialist, Preschool Programs