



WPS & ELP DIAPERING & TOILETING POLICY

WPS: All preschool children, whether in the morning, Extended Day, or Late Day classes are expected to be *independently* toilet-trained while at school. This means must be able to use a regular toilet, manage to pull their clothing down and back up again, and wipe/clean themselves during toileting without assistance. Pull-ups should not be worn by preschool students during school hours. We request that children wear clothing that is easy for them to manage such as elastic waist pants or shorts. Clothing with snaps, buttons, and zippers are difficult for children to manage on their own which can result in frustration or their having an accident.

We do recognize, however, that an occasional accident may occur. Unlike ELP classrooms where there are diapering stations and additional staffing, WPS Teachers are not allowed to assist with toileting, accompany children into the toilet stalls, or change their clothing. If a child has an accident involving wet clothing, the child may independently change the wet clothing him/herself at school. We request that parents put an extra set of clothing, including socks, in a ziploc bag and place in the child's school bag to have in case of an accident. We do not, however, manage bowel accidents in the preschool. Parents or an emergency contact will be called to come to the school to change the child and/or take him/her home in the event of a bowel accident.

Please be aware that a child's toileting habits while at school may differ from their toileting habits at home. Sometimes a child doesn't want to stop playing or leave a toy long enough to go to the bathroom. Another child may have anxiety at first about toileting at school or around other people. This does not mean the child is regressing, it simply means that he/she is not quite independently "school trained" yet. If a child has continued accidents while at school, the parents may be asked to transfer the child to a 3-year-old Early Learning Program classroom where there are diapering stations and additional staffing, if space is available.

ELP: Regular diaper changes/toileting breaks are scheduled throughout the school day. Teachers practice universal sanitary and toileting procedures in accordance with Fairfax County Health Department, Virginia DSS Licensing, and NAEYC.

If a child is in diapers, parents should furnish an adequate supply of diapers at all times, as well as a full change of clothing (including socks). Wipes are provided by the program. Children should be dressed in clothing that is conducive to easy diaper-changing, clothes changing, and independent toileting. Clothing articles that facilitate these are elastic waist pants, stretch shirts, velcro shoes, etc. Clothing with snaps, buttons, and zippers are difficult for children to manage as they are trying to use the bathroom by themselves, and are timely for teachers to manage during diaper changes.

If the child has begun toileting independently at home, teachers should be informed, and they will support and reinforce toileting at school, as long as the child exhibits that he/she is ready to be independent at school. Keep in mind that toileting habits can be very different at school. If a child has more than 3 accidents at school, parents will be required to send them to school in a diaper or pull-up until more practice and consistent toilet use at school has been accomplished.