



**COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
POLICY**

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Updated

**SUBJECT: CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH LIMITED OR  
INCONSISTENT TOILETING SKILLS**

**APPROVED: 07-02-10**

  
**BY: Ron Griffin, Director**

**PURPOSE**

Most children learn to master self-toileting skills somewhere between the ages of 2 to 5 years. Many children, especially those with disabilities, require much longer to master these skills, and some will never master them. Preschool Services Department recognizes that even the most physically able preschooler will have occasional toileting "accidents", and will require adult assistance. Every child has the right to expect compassionate care from the adults entrusted with their care.

**POLICY**

Parents should always be included when toileting issues involving their child arise, and Head Start hygiene practices (diapering, hand washing, etc.) should be explained to parents.

**REFERENCE**

Head Start Performance Standard 1308.5(d), 1304.22(E), 1304.21(a), 1304.21(a)(1)(v)

**PROCEDURE**

- Parents may be encouraged to bring their children to school in training pants rather than diapers or pull ups, and assured that the school staff will assist their child to learn self-toileting skills if the parent chooses this.
- Toileting "accidents" are a normal and frequent occurrence for many preschoolers, and should be anticipated by school staff.
- Every parent should be asked to provide an extra set of clothing, including undergarments, in the event a child becomes wet or soiled during class time. These extra items of clothing should be clean, and stored in a labeled plastic bag until needed.
- Children should be observed throughout the day to make sure their clothing is clean and dry. Any toileting accidents must be addressed and cleaned up immediately. Urine and feces left on the skin can cause illness and skin breakdown.
- Parents should be notified immediately of any unusual event, such as repeated instances of loose stool, or unusually frequent urination, as this may be a sign of illness. School staff should make sure emergency contact cards are always up to

date.

- Age appropriate children who are not disabled may be encouraged to toilet themselves, but should never be coerced, humiliated or scorned if they resist toileting. Remember every child is different, and has individual needs and abilities.
- Universal Precautions should be observed when handling wet or soiled clothing or diapers. See the Health Procedure: Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions.
- Preschool toddlers and children frequently require assistance with clothing and hygiene when toileting themselves, and these instances should be viewed as opportunities to teach them proper hygiene habits: wiping from front to back, remembering to flush, washing their hands afterward, etc.
- Every toddler and child should be offered the opportunity to use the toilet several times throughout the class day and especially before getting on the bus for the trip home or to go on a field trip.