

StMM Potty Training Policy

Children enrolled in PK3 and PK4 at StMM must be potty trained before attending preschool. Children must be wearing underwear and very rarely having accidents. Please note that wearing pull-ups isn't considered being potty trained.

Why do children have to be potty trained before they begin preschool?

There are strict standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers.

The classrooms are not equipped for diaper changing.

When an adult is busy changing a child's diaper or 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 potty trained children will occasionally have toileting 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 potty trained child is a child who can do the following:

1. Communicate to the teachers that he/she needs to go to the restroom before they need to go.
2. Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing, to go and use the bathroom.
3. Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up without assistance.
4. Wipe him/herself after using the toilet. (With bowel movements as well as urine)
5. Get on/off the toilet by him/herself.
6. Wash and dry hands.
7. Postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or if we are away from the classroom.
8. Awaken during nap time should they need to use the bathroom.

We certainly will ask your child and offer the opportunity to use the bathroom multiple times throughout the day. The opportunity to use the bathroom is included in rest time preparation as well as any transitions away from the classroom. A teacher will assist children if necessary, but children must 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 faculty are aware of this and will assist the children when necessary. Please dress your child in clothing that can be undone and changed easily. Please send a complete change of clothes (including socks and shoes) that is appropriate for the season. These will remain in your child's backpack so that you can replace them as needed. Parents will be notified if a child has a toileting accident.

We understand that each child arrives at this milestone differently, therefore we will allow 4 weeks from the first day of school for your child to demonstrate accomplishment of this goal. However, if the situation is not manageable within the classroom environment, we will discuss the issue with the parents and reserve the right to suspend attendance of the child at such time.

If your child is not completely potty trained as described above when preschool starts, the following options are available:

1. You may withdraw your child from preschool and place their name at the top of our waiting list. Registration and supply fees are non-refundable; however, if your child is re-enrolled in our program at a later date during the same school year, you will not need to pay these fees again. If you choose this option, we cannot guarantee that a space will be available.
2. You may pay ½ tuition to hold your child’s spot (for up to two months) until potty training has been completed.

A child will not be considered toilet trained for our preschool program if the child continues to consistently have toileting accidents (excluding nap time accidents) after the first 4 weeks of school.

The following policies will be in place for children who have toileting accidents:

1. Parents/guardians will be notified each time a child has a toileting accident.
2. The classroom teachers will document all toileting accidents.
3. The classroom teachers will document the efforts that have been made to help reduce bathroom accidents.
4. The classroom teachers will partner with the parents/guardians to help develop additional interventions to help improve bathrooming success.
5. The classroom teachers will consult with the Early Childhood Coordinator about the situation. The Director will offer input and possible additional ideas for reducing the toileting accidents.
6. If toileting accidents are habitual, parents/guardians will be required to participate in a parent-teacher conference. During this conference, a formal toileting support action plan will be developed to address the issue. The action plan will outline the steps the staff will take to try to improve bathroom success along with the steps the parents will take. The Early Childhood Coordinator will be present at this conference.
7. The Early Childhood Coordinator may recommend that the parents consult with professional, community-based service providers for additional resources and further guidance in responding to the child’s toileting accidents. With parental consent, the classroom teachers will collaborate with those professionals to develop strategies to help the child be more successful with toileting.
8. If improvements are not evident after implementing this plan, the teachers and parents will meet again to discuss other available options/strategies including the possibility of time away from school while the child becomes successful with toileting.
9. St. Mary Magdalene Preschool reserves the right to terminate any child’s enrollment if the child persistently has toileting accidents despite our combined efforts to help him/her be successful with bathrooming.

I have read and fully understand these policies.

Child’s Name (Print) _____

Parent’s signature

Date