

Toilet Training Policy

This policy outlines how Sunnydale Nursery will support children during the toilet-training process in a safe, developmentally appropriate, consistent, and respectful manner.

Principles of Toilet Training

We are committed to:

- Supporting children at their individual developmental stage.
- Promoting independence, confidence, and self-care skills.
- Working in partnership with parents/carers to ensure consistency between home and nursery.
- Maintaining high standards of dignity, hygiene, and safeguarding.

Toilet/potty training will start when the child shows signs of readiness. These may include:

- Staying dry for at least 1–2 hours at a time.
- Showing awareness of needing to wee or poo (e.g., telling an adult, hiding, stopping play).
- Being able to sit and rise from a potty or toilet.
- Showing interest in using the potty or toilet.
- Understanding and following simple instructions.

We will not rush or pressure children, readiness varies widely and typically occurs between 18 months and 3 years.

Partnership With Parents/Carers

Consistent routines between home and nursery are key. The nursery will:

- Discuss readiness and plan a suitable start time with parents.
- Agree on toilet-training routines, this will be with the child's Key person and an agreement will be made (language used, prompts, expectations and rewards).
- Request parents provide spare clothing, wipes, and any preferred potty seat if needed.
- Share regular updates on progress, challenges, and successes.
- Encourage parents to maintain consistency throughout the day by avoiding a return to nappies for the journey home
- Parents are encouraged to begin toilet training at home during a period of stability before starting it in the nursery, this means during a point of no disruptions and change of routine.

Nursery Approach to Toilet Training

Individualised Support



- Children are encouraged, never forced, to use the potty or toilet.
- Encouraged to drink plenty of water.
- Staff will offer regular toilet opportunities throughout the day an example of this would be, before and after nap times, around mealtimes, and before outdoor play.
- Children will be praised for effort, not only success.
- Accidents are treated as normal and are managed calmly and sensitively.
- Accidents are common and to be kept positive.

Equipment

The nursery will provide:

- Child-appropriate toilets. If potties are required, they must be provided by the parent/carer.
- Step when needed.
- Accessible sinks, soap, and hand-drying facilities.

Parents may provide familiar items if this helps the child feel comfortable.

To ensure children's health and safety:

- Staff must wear gloves and follow infection-control procedures during accidents or clean-ups.
- Changing areas will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Children will be supported to wash their hands thoroughly after each toilet attempt.
- Soiled clothing will be bagged and returned to parents; it is not washed on site.

The policy was adopted on:	November 2025
Date disseminated to staff:	November 2025
Date for review:	November 2026