

Toileting Policy

Expectations and Definition

Children entering the program at German International School Boston should be toilet trained. Fully potty-trained means that the child wears regular underwear only. Please note that wearing pull-ups and padded underwear isn't considered being potty trained. Additionally, fully potty-trained means that the child knows when he or she has to use the bathroom and consistently and reliably urinates and defecates in the toilet.

There are several reasons why it is important that children should be potty trained before they begin our program. There are strict state-wide standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers. The classrooms are not equipped for diaper changing and we do not have the facilities necessary to change and dispose of diapers in a hygienic manner.

When an adult is busy changing a child's diaper or soiled clothing, he/she is taking away from learning time for all students. This activity removes one adult from the direct supervision of and interaction with the rest of the class.

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 bathroom before actually relieving him/herself.
2. Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing, to go and use the bathroom.
3. Pull down his/her outer clothes and underwear and pull them back up without assistance afterward.
4. Wipe him/herself after using the toilet, with minimal assistance.
5. Get on/off our small preschool toilets by him/herself.
6. Wash and dry hands with a friendly reminder.
7. Postpone relieving him/herself if another child is using the bathroom or if the class is away from the classroom.

Guided Approach and Support

Nevertheless, we understand that this target can be an ambitious one. Often it is not clear during the enrollment period whether it is even achievable. For this reason, we have implemented a guided approach with both our Director of Admission and Head of Preschool acting as coaches and guides for families of the youngest children.

The toilet training process undeniably involves work for parents but this is a task in which the school supports families directly by offering a monthly training plan as well as regular check-ins from the time of enrollment until the start of school and beyond. Additionally, the Head of Preschool is available for individual consultations once the school year is underway.



Often new settings lead to accidents so that even children that were using the toilet reliably before the transition to GISB go through a rough patch. It is not uncommon for a child who is fully toilet trained to have a setback when he/she is in a new environment or is confronted with a new language. Preschool Staff 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 appropriate for the season. If your child has had an accident and been changed into spare clothes, please supply a fresh set (s) the next day. These will be left at school in case of accidents, and returned at the end of the school year. Parents will be notified if a child has a toileting accident. A class log is also kept.

As a school rather than a daycare, our focus is on learning through play, pre-academic activities, guided social interactions, and emotional support. This precludes us from toilet training children. Additionally, we do not have the facilities for diapering. Nonetheless, we are very cognizant of the realistic fact that the task can be daunting. **The leadership at the Lower Campus along with the classroom and after-school program teachers are dedicated to partnering and guiding families in achieving this important milestone in a timely, reliable, and stress-free manner.**