

# Cityscape Schools Potty Training Policy

Potty training is a crucial developmental milestone for Pre-K students as it fosters independence and self-care skills. Being potty trained allows children to focus on learning and socializing without the distraction or stress of toileting needs. It also prepares them for kindergarten, where independence in using the bathroom is expected. Mastery of this skill boosts a child's confidence, promotes responsibility, and ensures they can fully participate in classroom activities without frequent interruptions. Ultimately, potty training supports a smoother transition into formal schooling, setting the foundation for future success.

At Cityscape Schools, we understand that not every child will reach that milestone at the same time. Our teachers partner with families to ensure that all children feel supported both at home and at school throughout the process of potty training. Our goal is for your child to have a successful Pre-K experience at Cityscape Schools. Our Pre-K classrooms typically serve up to 22 four and three year-old students. All of our Pre-K classrooms have a restroom in the classroom which students are allowed to use at ANY time. Students are never asked to wait unless there is another student in the restroom.

## **Age expectations**

At age three, most students are in the last phases of potty training as they learn to use unfamiliar facilities, adjust to the bathroom schedule, learn to wipe independently, and build confidence to tell the teacher when they need to use the restroom. No matter where your child is on the potty-training journey, we all need to work together to make your child's experience as smooth as possible.

## **Requirements for Enrollment**

Per the Texas Education Agency, it is not mandatory that children be fully potty trained before entering a state-funded, public Pre-K program. However, it is strongly encouraged that families work diligently on potty training once their child is enrolled, if not before.

While it is not mandatory that your child is potty trained to attend public Pre-K, your child should be potty trained by age 3. The teacher will not be able to spend individual time teaching potty training skills. While the teacher will set a schedule and encourage your child, he/she is

responsible for the daily instruction, academic progress and assessments for all the students in the classroom. The Teacher Assistant (TA) is there to assist when there are accidents; however, he/she is also responsible for giving academic support to students in small groups and learning centers/stations. Therefore, it is not possible for either to focus on potty training a student at school.

### **Support for Potty Training**

- **Assistance:** Teacher or Teacher Assistant will provide assistance such as verbal reminders or encouragement for your child to use the restroom. Teachers and TAs can assist with buttons, belts, zippers.
- **Accidents:** We know accidents may happen from time to time. For this reason, we ask parents/guardians to provide an extra uniform. Please include clean socks and underwear along with the uniform. Please note, parent/guardian will be asked to come change their child for major accidents. Teachers or TAs will not assist your child with wiping. Your child will need to be able to change into clean clothes by him/herself.
- **Toileting Schedule:** The classroom teacher will ensure regular bathroom breaks and reminders are set throughout the day.

As a family member, here's how you can help support your child's independence with toileting, whether at home or at school.

- Dress them in clothing that is easy to remove independently for toileting (elastic waistbands recommended)
- Provide wipes
- Have your child practice pulling their own pants up and down
- Encourage children to wipe themselves
- Always have an extra set of clean clothes, including underwear and socks in your child's backpack
- Enthusiastically praise your child for all effort and success. Positive reinforcement can help encourage your child to develop better toileting habits. Never blame or shame a child for having a potty accident

## **Exceptions and Special Circumstances**

We understand children identified with special needs or developmental delays may require a more personalized and flexible potty training plan. If the child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the Teacher or Teacher Assistant can assist the child with wiping and changing into clean clothes.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

Accidents will be handled with sensitivity and no disciplinary actions will be taken for potty training accidents. Children who have accidents will not be humiliated or punished. The teacher will inform parent/guardian about accidents at the end of the day either in person or through a note.

If your child has an accident, he/she will be discretely escorted to the bathroom by the teacher or TA. Your child will be encouraged to complete the action on the toilet to ensure bladder/bowels are completely emptied and expected to wipe him/herself and change into clean clothes. As previously mentioned, teachers and TAs can assist with buttons, zippers, and belts. If the child's underwear is excessively soiled, it will be thrown away. The remainder of the soiled clothing will be returned in a plastic zippered bag in the student's backpack.