POTTY TRAINING

Guidelines, Suggestions and Policies

From Joyful Noise Christian Childcare

JOYFUL NOISE
Christian Childcare

Last Updated July 2026

A WORD ON CHILD LED POTTY-TRAINING

What does it mean for potty-training to be "child led?"

At Joyful Noise, it means paying attention to careful cues that children may be sending regarding potty-training readiness—from their natural body habits to their interest in self-help skills such as dressing or undressing, putting on a pull-up, or trying the toilet in between diaper changes.

We begin to facilitate these steps in our toddler classroom, where children are encouraged to try and use the child-sized toilet in the classroom during diapering times, or when they feel the urge to use the bathroom.

Some children readily express a desire to do this, and others don't. For the children who don't yet have interest in using the toilet, or aren't ready for certain self-help skills, we wait and continue to encourage them at their current pace. Joyful Noise does not and will not force any child to use the restroom when they are not willing. We are unable to cooperate with potty-training regimens from home that do not meet our philosophical guidelines or practical scope of caregiving.

WHEN DO MOST CHILDREN START POTTY-TRAINING MORE REGULARLY?

Most children begin to show interest and readiness around 24 months old, when they are transitioning into our two's classroom. (Some have already begun the process at that point, and many won't show real interest until well into their third year.) Try not to worry about "keeping up with peers" when it comes to toilet training readiness. Pushing too hard can lead to frustration for both you and your child, and potentially delay the potty-training process altogether.

TYPICAL RESTROOM USE IN THE CLASSROOM

Beginning at the toddler age, children will be encouraged to try and use the restroom either in the classroom or in appropriate locations in conjunction with diaper changes, or at checkpoints throughout their day. Adult facilities are located throughout the building and utilized by older school age children. Adults do not use the restroom facilities at the same time as children, nor are they alone in enclosed stalls/bathroom areas where the door may be shut. As a part of their self-care routine, all children will wash their hands after restroom use, and as they become capable they will add the additional self-help skills:

- Letting adults know when they have a soiled pull-up or diaper or when they need to use the restroom
- Pulling clothing and pullups or underwear down/up
- Wiping/cleaning themselves after restroom use
- Flushing the toilet
- Using the restroom completely independently

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION AND TRANSITIONING FROM DIAPERS

At any stage of potty-training, it is important to communicate your intentions and progress at home to your child's teacher. Any transition—such as moving from diapers to pullups, or pullups to underwear—should be part of a conversation you have with caregivers ***before*** the change has taken place at school.

Concerning the transition from pullups or diapers to underwear, Joyful Noise requires that, in order to wear underwear to school, your child has maintained dry underwear and regular bathroom habits for at least three consecutive days at home, such as over a period of a weekend. This transition must be discussed with your child's teacher ahead of time so that proper attention is given at school. If your child is unable to maintain regular dryness and toileting habits in their underwear at school (regardless of their habits at home) they will need to return to pullups or diaper usage until they are ready.

GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR POTTY-TRAINING CHILDREN

Please use the following guidelines when sending your potty-training student to school:

- Arrive for care in clothing that is easy to get off and on (no belts, onesies, tights, snaps, buttons, etc.) Elastic-waisted pants help to give the child a sense of accomplishment as self-help skills are reinforced.
- At all times, children should have plenty of spare underwear and at least 3-6 complete outfits, from shirts to socks, in their cubby for daily usage in case of accidents*.

*If your child has a bathroom accident while potty-training or at any time at school, their soiled clothes will be placed in a plastic bag on their cubby or coat hook. Please remember to check your child's personal areas regularly for soiled clothing, or it may be discarded after a few days for health and sanitary reasons.

Please note that Joyful Noise may NOT rinse any items soiled with feces, urine or vomit in any sink or toilet area located throughout our center. To do so is a violation of Michigan state licensing requirements.

In order to transition to the fours room, children must be potty-trained. At Joyful Noise, **fully potty-trained** is defined as accident-free for one week of attendance at school, along with the ability to notify a teacher of the need to use the restroom.

REWARDS, INCENTIVES AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Often, the incentive of peer encouragement and "following the herd" can be very motivational for potty-training students, but each classroom has unique positive methods and reward systems to encourage your child's potty-training efforts. If you have a reward system in place at home that you would like to implement at daycare, please discuss with your child's teacher. Potty-training children are always offered a wealth of encouragement and praise for their efforts at Joyful Noise, and age-appropriate expectations keep children from becoming frustrated or fearful of the potty-training process. If you have any concerns at any time, please discuss them with your child's caregiver.

Following our potty-training guidelines and maintaining consistency and open parent/teacher communication are the keys to your child's success! Thank you for sharing your child with us!

Please fill out the attached questionnaire and return to your child's teacher at least one week prior to starting potty-learning at JN or sending your child in underwear.

Child's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Today's Date:_____

JOYFUL NOISE
Christian Childcare

Potty Training Questionnaire for Parents

To help our team better understand your child's potty-training needs and ensure a smooth transition between home and school, please turn this form in at least one week prior to starting potty-training at JN or sending your child in underwear.

At Joyful Noise we prefer to use anatomically accurate language with children, in order to help them develop a healthy understanding of their bodies.

What language do you and your child use at home to label their anatomy? _____

Toilet Preferences at Home

At Joyful Noise we use standard toilets that are child-sized. We are not able to use "potty chairs" at our center. Please tell us:

What type of toilet does your child use at home?

- ☐ Standard toilet (please note any accommodations: i.e. footstool, sitting backwards, standing up, etc.) _____
- ☐ Child-sized potty chair
- ☐ Child-sized toilet seat attachment
- ☐ Urinal
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

If your child is a boy, do they sit on or stand at the toilet while urinating at home? _____

Does your child require assistance with the following? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Sitting on the toilet
- ☐ Adjusting/holding the seat or attachment
- ☐ Aiming urine into urinal or toilet
- ☐ Wiping ---- ☐ After urinating ☐ After bowel movement
- ☐ Flushing
- ☐ Washing

Clothing and Independence

At Joyful Noise, while in the process of potty learning, we prefer children wear elastic waist pants that are easy to pull up and down, and do not have any zippers, snaps, buttons, or belts.

Can your child independently pull their pants up and down?

- ☐ Yes, always
- ☐ Sometimes (requires minimal assistance)
- ☐ No, they need help

Are there specific types of clothing that your child struggles with (e.g., belts, tights, snaps, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes (please specify): _____
- ☐ No

Hygiene Practices

Does your child require help with wiping after using the toilet?

- ☐ No, they can wipe themselves thoroughly
- ☐ Yes, they need assistance---- ☐ After urinating ☐ After bowel movement

Every child washes their hands after using the toilet at JN. At home, how are they doing so?

- ☐ Independently
- ☐ Sometimes (requires reminders)
- ☐ They need assistance from an adult

Communication and Cues

How does your child typically communicate their need to use the toilet?

- ☐ Verbal cues (e.g., "I need to go")
- ☐ Non-verbal cues (e.g., pointing, gestures)
- ☐ No clear communication yet

Does your child indicate when they have had an accident or need a diaper/pull-up change?

- ☐ Yes, consistently
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No

At Home Routine and Progress

What is your potty-training routine at home? _____

_____

_____

Any challenges, habits, etc. that we should be aware of? _____

_____

Has your child maintained dry underwear or pull-ups for at least three consecutive days?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is your child eliminating both urine and bowel movements into the toilet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Motivation and Encouragement

Are you using a reward system or other motivation methods at home?

- ☐ Yes (please describe): _____
- ☐ No

How does your child respond to encouragement or positive reinforcement during potty training?

_____

Thank you for taking the time to provide this information. It will help us tailor our approach to more effectively meet your child's potty-training needs!

Please return this completed questionnaire to your child's teacher.

Updated July 2026