



Potty Training at Stoney Court

How we partner with you · What we need from home · Effective October 1, 2026

Learning to use the potty is one of the biggest things your little one will do this year, and we are glad to be part of it. This sheet explains how potty training works in our classrooms, what we need from home, and how we know a child is truly ready. **Our goal is the same as yours:** a confident child who can take care of themselves, without the process dragging on for months or years.

IS YOUR LITTLE ONE READY?

- ✓ **Stays dry for two hours** or longer, and often wakes up dry from nap.
- ✓ **Walks to the bathroom** and pulls their own pants up and down with little help.
- ✓ **Follows a two step direction**, such as “wash your hands, then come sit down.”
- ✓ **Is interested**, asks about the potty, and wants to wear real underwear.
- ✓ **Tells you before or as it happens**, in words or with a clear, consistent signal.
- ✓ **Dislikes being wet or dirty** and wants to be changed right away.
- ✓ **Has predictable bowel movements** at roughly the same time each day.
- ✓ **Can sit and stay put** on the potty for a minute or two without a fight.

Most children show these signs somewhere between two and a half and three and a half years old. Readiness is not about a birthday, it is about the signs above. **Starting before a child is ready does not get you there sooner, it gets you there later.** Children started very early take longer to finish than children started when they were ready, and the months in between are hard on everyone. If you are not sure, ask your child's teacher. We watch these signs all day long and we are happy to tell you what we see.

BEFORE WE CAN START HERE

Potty training starts at home, not at daycare

Before your child begins in underwear at Stoney Court, we need **at least three to five days in a row at home, in real underwear, with strong and steady progress.** A long weekend is the minimum. A full week is better.

Strong progress means that by the end of that stretch your child is telling you before they need to go, making it to the potty most times, and having **no more than one or two accidents a day and improving.** If your child is still having accident after accident on day five, they are telling you they are not ready yet, and that is useful information rather than a failure.

We are not able to start a child in underwear here on the strength of a plan, a single good day, or a promising start. It has to have worked at home first, and you have to be able to tell us specifically how it went. A busy classroom with eight children is a much harder place to learn a brand new skill than your own bathroom, so a child who is only just holding it together at home will not hold it together here.

HOW WE START, TOGETHER

1

Talk with us first

Go through the readiness signs with your child's teacher before you begin anything.

2

Three to five days at home

Real underwear, no pull-ups, at home, with your attention on it. A full week is better.

3

Tell us how it went

Day by day. What worked, how many accidents, and whether your child is telling you.

4

We carry it on here

Once you have shown us real progress, your child comes in underwear and joins the class rhythm.

OUR CLASSROOM POTTY RHYTHM

The whole class goes together

Potty breaks are built into our natural transitions, **roughly every 60 to 90 minutes through the day**, plus any time a child asks. Going as a group is what makes this possible with one teacher and up to eight children, and it keeps every child in the room, in ratio, and safe.

We are not able to run an individual timer or a separate potty schedule for one child. Please build your home routine around this same rhythm so the two match.

We tell, we do not ask

Our teachers say **"It is time to go potty,"** not "do you need to go." Children say no to a question far more often than they say no to a routine, and we remind them their toy or project will still be waiting when they get back.

We never hold a child on the potty or keep them sitting past a minute or two.

SAME WORDS, HOME AND HERE

What you will hear us say

"It is time to go potty." A statement, never a question.

"Your toy will be right here when you get back." For the child who does not want to stop playing.

"Let us get you clean and dry." Calm and matter of fact, every single time.

"You told me! That is the hard part." We celebrate the telling, not just the result.

"Pee" and "poop." Those are the words we use in every classroom, every day. Please tell us your child's words too, so we always understand them.

What we will never do

We do not scold, shame, or use a disappointed voice over an accident, and we do not let other children comment on it either.

We do not withhold play, food, or a favorite activity over toileting, and we do not compare one child's progress to another's.

Using these same words at home makes all of it land faster. Please borrow ours.

WHAT TO PACK, EVERY SINGLE DAY

Please send

- **Three complete changes of clothes** in the cubby: shirt, pants, underwear, socks. Restock whatever we send home, that same night.
- **Elastic waist pants or shorts only.** Loose enough that your child can push them down alone, and loose enough to slide over shoes.
- **Training underwear with a waterproof cover.** Cotton training pants under a vinyl or PUL cover let your child feel wet, which is the whole lesson, while keeping the mess contained. We highly recommend these for the first few weeks.
- **Two pairs of no slip grip socks** for the potty training room.
- **Everything labeled** with your child's first and last name.

Please leave at home

- **Pull-ups for daytime.** See the next section. We do not use them as a step toward underwear.
- **Anything with a button, snap, zipper, buckle, or belt.** A child who cannot undo it alone will not make it in time.
- **Overalls, rompers, and one piece outfits.** These come off over the head, which turns one accident into a full outfit change.
- **Bodysuits and onesies** that snap at the bottom.
- **Tights and leggings** that stick to damp legs.
- **Anything you would be sad to see stained.**

UNDERWEAR, PULL-UPS, AND DIAPERS

A pull-up is a diaper in different packaging

It holds the same amount. It feels the same to your child. And it does the same job, which is to keep them dry at the exact moment they need to feel wet. **That feeling is the entire lesson.** A child who never feels the accident has no reason to change anything they are doing, so pull-ups tend to stretch potty training out over months or years rather than weeks. They also take longer for us to change than underwear does.

We do not use pull-ups as a middle step, a safety net, or a trial run. At Stoney Court a child is either actively potty training, in real underwear, or not yet potty training, in diapers. There is no in between, and we have found that the in between is where families get stuck for a very long time.

Not potty training yet

Diapers. No pull-ups. We change on our regular schedule.

Actively potty training

Real underwear all day, ideally training underwear with a waterproof cover for the first few weeks.

Not making progress

Back to diapers and a two week break, then start over at home when the readiness signs are solid.

Nap and overnight

Pull-ups are always fine, at any stage. Staying dry through sleep takes longer for many children and it is not something anyone can practice. **Nap pull-ups never affect your tuition rate.**

When Things Slip, and What It Costs



WHEN ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

1 to 3

A normal day. We clean up kindly and quietly, with no shame and no big reaction, and your child goes right back into underwear and back to play.

4th

A pull-up for the rest of that day. Not a punishment, and we do not frame it that way to your child. Fresh start in underwear the next morning.

3 days

We stop and reset. Three of those days in one week and your child moves back into diapers. We will talk with you, take two weeks off, and start again at home.

A reset is not a failure. It protects your child from weeks of feeling like they keep getting it wrong in front of their friends, and children who restart when truly ready almost always finish faster.

CELEBRATING, THE SAME WAY FOR EVERY CHILD

What you will see here

- **Specific praise for the effort**, not just the result. "You told me! That is the hard part."
- **A high five, a hand stamp, or a cheer** from the whole class.
- **A note home** so you can celebrate the same win at pickup.
- **The same celebration for everyone**, in every classroom, every day.

What we do not do

- **No candy, treats, or food of any kind as a reward.** Child care nutrition standards are clear that food should never be used as a reward or a punishment, and we hold to that everywhere.
- **No prize boxes, toys, or trinkets.**
- **No individual sticker charts or reward plans** for one child.

This is one of the few places we cannot personalize. A prize that belongs to one child is noticed by the other seven within minutes, and it teaches a child to go for the treat rather than because their body told them to. **Reward however you like at home. Here, everyone gets the same cheer.**

TUITION AND FEES

Toddler tuition rate applies until your child is potty independent

\$955 / mo

Children in diapers or pull-ups during the day need diapering, supplies, and hands on staff time. This holds even after your child turns three.

Preschool rate begins once both are true

\$865 / mo

Your child is three or older, *and* has been in real underwear here through the day with no more than one accident a week for two weeks running. Nap pull-ups do not count against this. The new rate starts the first of the following month.

Stoney Court loaner clothing

\$10 / item

When a cubby runs empty we put your child in our spares. Please wash and return them within three days. Items not returned are billed to your account.

Amounts shown are the standard full time monthly rates. Flex, extended, and hourly plans move between the toddler and preschool tiers the same way. Your full tuition schedule is in the **Family Handbook**.

If your child has a medical condition or a diagnosed delay that affects toileting, please tell us. Bring anything in writing from your doctor or therapist and we will talk it through with you. For questions about tuition or rates, call the office at (208) 650-7529. These policies take effect **October 1, 2026** and apply to every family enrolled at Stoney Court Playcare.