



"Fostering the development of the whole child through emergent and child-centered learning, play, exploration, and discovery in the natural world."

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Little Wonders Nature Preschool Bathroom Readiness

All students at Little Wonders Nature Preschool must come potty-independent on the first day of school in September. This is important as our instructors facilitate adventurous, outdoor moments for young children in a rich, rugged environment.

That said, we understand that potty-independence is a two-steps forward, one-step backward learning process for many students, if not all! Many of our students have a perfect record at home then come to school and experience a few accidents. This is perfectly normal and does not mean your child is unable to come to school. Everyone needs time to learn and feel comfortable in a new space, and our teachers will dedicate time and energy towards making sure your child feels safe in our facilities.

However, your child must meet certain bathroom-readiness requirements for attending school. The following things are must-haves on Day 1 so we can get to a safe, independent space for the school year.

- Your child should recognize the need to go before they go in their clothes. Your child should be communicating this need verbally or physically in a way that is recognizable.
- Your child should be able to enter a bathroom by themselves, take off their garments, get up on the toilet, wipe by themselves, then put their garments back on. We recognize that wet clothes or cold-weather gear may require help from instructors, and one of us will always be present during bathroom trips. Everybody needs help sometimes! If a child needs help from a teacher, the bathroom door will remain open or we will ask the child to exit the bathroom to get help (in the case of needing help putting outer layer cold weather gear back on once under layers are already on). Practicing getting gear off and on at home can aid in setting your child up for success at school.
- Your child should be able to wash their hands independently!



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- No diapers or pull-ups allowed at class - these encourage the child to continue using the potty in the old way. Cool, exciting, big kid underwear becomes something the child wants to keep clean! Speak to the program director if your child has health or dietary restrictions that make bathroom-readiness more difficult.

Bring extra-clothes! Kids may have accidents, but these accidents can become physically and emotionally unsafe if your child does not have a proper change of clothes to get into. Good bathroom-readiness comes with backups, just in case.

Nature Potty skills are helpful! Sometimes a bathroom moment will strike when we are on the trails away from the main facilities. It's a good idea to practice a few nature-potty moments with family before coming to school.

And that's it! EdenAcres is committed to meeting our students where they are, so if you have questions or concerns please get in touch with staff so we can plan a strategy suited to your family. A big part of what we do at nature preschool is teach independence and self-motivation to our preschoolers. The bathroom is a huge part of that for this age group! We will be successful!