



Children's Toilets

Opening Statement

At Clare House Nursery, we recognise that learning to use the toilet independently is an important milestone in every child's development. We are committed to providing a positive, nurturing and respectful environment where children feel safe, confident and supported as they develop their personal care skills.

We understand that every child is unique and will become toilet independent at their own pace. Our practitioners work in close partnership with parents and carers to provide a consistent, child-led approach that promotes children's dignity, emotional wellbeing, confidence and independence. We encourage children to develop self-care skills through patience, reassurance and positive encouragement, ensuring that toileting is a relaxed and rewarding experience.

Children's privacy, dignity and voice are central to our practice. Practitioners communicate with children throughout toileting routines, explaining what they are doing, encouraging children to make choices where appropriate and responding sensitively to both verbal and non-verbal communication. We believe that listening to children and respecting their individual needs helps build trusting relationships and supports their overall wellbeing.

Toileting routines also form an important part of our safeguarding responsibilities. Practitioners remain professionally curious and attentive to any changes in a child's health, behaviour or emotional wellbeing, recognising that routine care provides valuable opportunities to observe, listen and respond to children's needs. Any concerns will be managed in accordance with the nursery's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that every child is supported to develop independence in toileting within a safe, respectful and inclusive environment. Clare House Nursery aims to:

- Promote children's dignity, privacy and emotional wellbeing during all toileting routines.
- Encourage independence by supporting children to develop age-appropriate self-care skills.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to provide a consistent and positive approach to toilet learning.
- Listen to and respect each child's wishes, feelings and preferred methods of communication.
- Ensure children are appropriately supervised according to their age, stage of development and individual needs.
- Provide clean, hygienic and welcoming toilet facilities that promote good health and infection prevention.
- Make reasonable adjustments to support children with SEND, medical conditions or additional care needs.
- Maintain the highest standards of safeguarding by ensuring practitioners remain professionally curious, responsive and vigilant throughout all personal care routines.
- Foster a positive attitude towards toileting, helping children develop confidence, resilience and lifelong self-care skill

At Clare House Nursery, our Two-Year-Old Room has its own dedicated child-sized toilet facilities, allowing children to access the toilet within their familiar learning environment.

This enables practitioners to:

- respond quickly when children indicate they need the toilet
- encourage independence throughout the day
- support toilet learning within children's daily routines
- maintain close supervision while respecting children's privacy
- provide a calm and reassuring environment for children who are learning new skills.

As children become more independent, they are encouraged to access the toilet whenever they need to.

Hearing the Child's Voice

Practitioners recognise that children communicate their toileting needs in many different ways.

Children may:

- verbally ask to use the toilet
- use signs or gestures
- become restless
- hide
- hold themselves
- change their behaviour
- indicate discomfort through facial expressions or body language.

Practitioners remain attentive to these cues and respond promptly and sensitively.

Throughout toileting routines practitioners will:

- explain what they are doing using age-appropriate language
- encourage children to communicate their needs
- listen to children's verbal and non-verbal communication
- seek the child's cooperation wherever developmentally appropriate
- reassure children who feel worried or embarrassed
- respect children's dignity and privacy at all times.

Safeguarding

Toileting routines form part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

Practitioners remain professionally curious and understand that toileting provides valuable opportunities to observe children's health and wellbeing.

If practitioners notice:

- unexplained bruising
- soreness
- bleeding
- unusual marks
- signs of infection
- behavioural changes
- emotional distress
- disclosures made by the child

these will be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in accordance with the nursery's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Record of Concern Procedures.

Supervision

Children are supervised according to their age, stage of development and individual needs.

Practitioners encourage independence while remaining available to:

- offer reassurance
- assist with clothing
- support wiping where required
- encourage handwashing
- ensure children's safety.

Children are never left unsupported or supervised if they require assistance.

Older Children

Older children are encouraged to become increasingly independent.

Practitioners remain nearby and continue to supervise discreetly, ensuring children can request help whenever needed while respecting their privacy and dignity.

Promoting Independence

Practitioners encourage children to:

- recognise when they need the toilet
- ask for help when required
- pull clothing up and down independently where able
- flush the toilet
- wash and dry their hands thoroughly
- return to play confidently.

Children are praised for their efforts rather than expected outcomes.

Hygiene

To reduce the risk of infection practitioners will ensure:

- toilets are checked and cleaned regularly throughout the day
- soap and paper towels are always available
- children wash their hands after every toilet visit
- spillages are cleaned immediately
- PPE is worn where intimate care is required
- appropriate infection prevention procedures are followed at all times.

Partnership with Parents

We work closely with parents and carers throughout each child's toilet learning journey.

Practitioners will:

- discuss each child's stage of development
- agree consistent approaches
- share daily progress where appropriate
- discuss any concerns sensitively
- celebrate children's achievements together.

Children with Additional Needs

Reasonable adjustments will always be made for children with SEND, medical conditions or disabilities.

Where additional support is required, an Individual Care Plan and Risk Assessment will be developed in partnership with parents and relevant professionals.

Clare House Commitment

At Clare House Nursery, we believe that toilet learning should be a positive, respectful and child-led experience. Through nurturing relationships, sensitive support and partnership with families, we encourage children to develop confidence, independence and lifelong self-care skills while ensuring their dignity, safety and wellbeing remain at the heart of every interaction.

