



# The Montessori School of Pullman

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## Bathroom Policy

We require that children in the Preschool, Kindergarten and Elementary classes be bathroom trained, both bowel movements and urination. Being bathroom trained looks different at different ages. We understand that some of our younger students may need reminders. Please help your child practice and gain independence in all of the necessary bathroom skills before starting school: getting on and off the toilet, wiping and cleaning, taking care of clothes, flushing, and handwashing. If a child requests assistance, we will verbally coach them through the necessary bathroom steps.

We realize that every child will have accidents occasionally and this is why we ask that children have an extra set of clothes at school. Please do return and replenish any sets of clothes. Please dress your children in clothes that can be quickly and easily removed to go to the bathroom. Overalls and tight pants that snap and zip are very difficult, and tights are also difficult to manage.

Please note that we will take into account that upon beginning a new school, children might need a couple of weeks to adjust.

If a child has a consistent problem with bathroom training (accidents three times in a week for two weeks) in the classroom, the following procedure will be implemented:

1. A staff member, usually the child's teacher, will communicate with the parents each time a bathroom accident occurs at school and the parent and teacher will discuss the situation.
2. The child will be taken to the bathroom often during class time. This will be done for a period of time agreeable to both parents and staff.
3. When a bathroom accident occurs at school, a staff member will take the child to the bathroom and the child will take care of clean up. We want to help the child develop independence and to understand natural consequences. With a staff member ready to assist by verbal coaching, the child will: a) put wet clothes in a plastic bag for taking home, b) clean up using toilet paper and wipes, c) put on clean clothes and place shoes to dry.
4. Parents will be called if sickness is suspected, the child is out of a change of clothing or is in need of additional clean up, such as bathing.
5. If the behavior persists, (e.g. three or more times a week for two weeks) the staff member and parents will have a conference. Family and staff will develop a plan of action and a reasonable time will be given to try ideas. A parent or caregiver might be called to pick up the child when an accident occurs. Documentation of the conference will be added to the child's file.
6. If there are no positive results in the time agreed upon by parents and teacher, and if it has been determined there is no illness involved, the staff will recommend a day away from school. An explanation will be given to the child that children at Montessori must go to the bathroom in the toilet. A parent or caregiver will be called to pick up the child when a bathroom accident occurs. To rule out any medical reasons, a doctor's visit to discuss the issue may be required.
7. The procedure will be repeated from Step 3 up to two times until such time as the problem is resolved or a decision is made by parents and staff that it is necessary to discontinue the child's attendance at the school until bathroom independence is reached.

Please note that this policy does not apply to children with special needs who are unable to control bodily functions. No such child will be excluded from our program. Please remember, also, that this policy does not apply to children who have occasional accidents which are normal and expected.

The Montessori Beginnings staff will work with the families to potty train the children as they show signs of readiness.

**Please note that a staff person of either sex may assist a child of either sex in the case of #3 above, a child needing help. This is because we want to model for the children that both males and females can be caregivers and take care of children's bodily needs. Please let the school know a.s.a.p. if you have any concerns regarding this matter. When a staff person is assisting a child, the bathroom door will be ajar.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_