



## When should I start toilet training?

Most toddlers are generally ready for toilet training somewhere between two and three although some children are early starters and show signs of readiness to start using the potty at 18 months. Day-time toilet training is usually accomplished long before night-time training, which may not happen until he's 5 or 6 years old.

### **Your child is ready for toilet-training if you notice some of the following signs:**

- he begins to have dry nappies during the day - this indicates that he is starting to learn control of his bladder
- he tells you when he's done a wee or poo - if he starts telling you in advance that he needs to do a wee, he's well on the way to toilet training
- he tries to take off his nappy when it's wet or dirty, or complains about it being wet or dirty
- he no longer does 'baby' poo, instead he produces soft but properly formed poo
- he is curious about what goes in the toilet
- he is interested when you go to the toilet - by watching you go to the toilet, he'll quickly learn what is supposed to happen there. He'll also start to learn about basic hygiene practices
- he is interested in completing tasks independently
- he understands and can follow simple instructions
- he can get his pants up and down independently

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/Toddler-Development-When-should-I-start-toilet-training+88+26+article.htm>

## Toilet training basics

Toilet training is an area of raising toddlers that too many parents get in a knot about. While there are many toilet training steps and tips to take on the way to the amazing world of underpants, there are a few things you must always keep in mind while potty training a toddler.



### **Before you begin toilet training:**

- Don't expect your child to learn to go to the toilet if he always has a nappy on. He will make the connection between the sensation of weeing and what is physically happening much faster if he can actually see the wee prior to potty training. So, long before you're even thinking about tackling toilet training, take his nappy off and let him have a run around without it. Either take him out into the garden or be prepared for a few puddles on the floor.
- Toilet training your child in less than a week doesn't make him - or you - smarter than all the other kids on the block. Don't follow any toilet-train-your-kid-in-three-days books because you'll only set yourself up for disappointment. Toilet training isn't a competitive sport, so be prepared for some potty related setbacks. Some kids understand potty training in a matter of days, while others take a long time. Pray for the first but be prepared for the second.
- It's a messy business. Again, don't expect your child to gain control over these key bodily functions without there being some toilet training accidents. Don't be precious about his clothes or the floors - if you've got carpet, try to keep him outdoors or confined to non-carpeted areas.

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