

Does my incoming child need to be potty-trained to attend TK?

State legislation does not permit districts to deny enrollment to incoming TK students if they are not fully potty trained. However, we STRONGLY encourage you to potty train your child before the start of the school year.

What does it mean to be fully potty trained?

Fully potty-trained students may have an occasional accident. Fully potty-trained means that the pupil:

- comes to school in big kid underpants (not pull-ups)
- can communicate a need to use the bathroom
- can independently take care of toileting (pull down underpants, sit on toilet or stand at urinal, and void the bowels or bladder)
- can independently manage related hygiene (can access toilet paper, wipe, place used toilet paper in the toilet bowl, flush, pull up underpants without assistance, and wash and dry hands)

Will TK classrooms have a bathroom?

All TK classrooms are located near a bathroom. Teachers will encourage students to use the bathroom during breaks and will access additional staff to support bathroom needs throughout the program.

What happens if my student has an accident at school?

Students will be sent to the health office to change if they are wet or wait for their parents to pick them up if they have had a bowel movement.

How can I learn more about the toilet training process?

We have linked some helpful articles below. For more specific information or guidance, consult your child's pediatrician.

- [Is My Child Ready for Potty Training?](#)
- [Toilet Training Milestone: Getting Started & Developmental Milestone, Ready Kids Occupational Therapy](#)
- [Helping Children with Toilet Learning in Child Care - eXtension Alliance for Better Child Care](#)
- [KidsHealth-Toilet Training](#)
- [Healthy Children Potty Training](#)
- [Toilet Teaching Without Tears PDF -- English](#)
- [Toilet Teaching Without Tears PDF -- Spanish](#)
- [Toilet Teaching Without Tears Podcast](#)

Can you provide resources to help with potty training?

Some helpful links with resources such as visuals, schedule templates, goal and rewards boards are provided below:

- Free Potty Training Visual Schedules
- * Potty Training: How to get the job done-Mayo Clinic

Videos: [Elmo's Potty](#), [Daniel Tiger's Stop and Go Potty](#)

Kindergarten Readiness: Suggestions to Support the Transition into Kindergarten

Parents often wonder if their child is ready for kindergarten and what they can do to support their child during this transition. It is important to note two important factors, in addition to the list of guidelines, that may help guide you in your decision. The first is that a typical Waldorf Kindergarten program is a multi-age program, meaning we do not separate the TK students from the K students. The other is that we have never welcomed children so young into kindergarten. Until 2022, students were not eligible to start kindergarten unless they were 5 by December 1 of that school year. Now children can start kindergarten at age 3 years 11 months!

What does it mean to be kindergarten ready? What skills does a child need to have to be successful? The following may help you discern whether your child is ready to start school, keeping in mind that all children develop skills over time and that many of these expectations may not be fully developed. By bringing awareness to these expectations and by working together, we can support you and your child in having a positive educational experience.

Readiness does not happen all at once. It is not a matter of checking off all the items on the list, but of considering overall readiness for entering a new program.

Physical:

- Independent in the bathroom - Can they communicate a need to use the bathroom and independently take care of toileting (pull down underpants, sit on toilet or stand at urinal?) Can they independently manage related hygiene (access toilet paper, wipe, place used toilet paper in the toilet bowl, flush, pull up underpants without assistance, and wash and dry hands?)
- Manage clothing with some support, moving towards independence - hang coat, place shoes/boots neatly in cubby, shoes on/off, dress self, attempt to manage zippers buttons
- Has energy and stamina for engaging in morning program (Do they still nap in morning?)
- Has stamina to go for a walk and play outside in a variety of weather conditions
- Able to bring body to stillness and quiet

Social and Emotional:

- Able to separate from parents without too much upset
- Able to listen to the teacher and respond when called (ie. leave the park when it's time)
- Able to manage multiple transitions throughout the day
- Willing to try new things (foods, activities)
- Willing to contribute to the work of the class - clean up, clear snack dishes, care for toys

Cognitive:

- Able to communicate with peers through speech
- Able to communicate basic needs to teacher and ask for help
- Able to maintain attentiveness during story time and circle activities