

What does DCP consider to be “potty-trained?”

In order to attend Preschool Camp at DCP, a child must be completely trained to use the potty. Fully potty-trained children must be able to do the following without adult assistance and minimal adult prompting:

- Be accident-free in regular underwear (i.e., not training pants or disposable pull-ups) for a two-week daytime period
- Recognize and able to tell a teacher in words that they must use the potty before they have to go
- Hold their potty need until they can get to the bathroom from a classroom or the playground or while waiting in line for other campers to finish using the potty
- Able to get on and off the potty mostly independently
- Pull down/up their pants/underwear or lift dress/skirt (we can help with difficult snaps or buttons if needed)
- Wipe themselves after using the potty
- Flush the potty
- Wash/dry their hands

As you evaluate your child’s potty-training abilities, be aware that performance in a preschool setting may not be the same as it is at home. At home, children have free access to the potty while, at camp, a teacher needs to escort them. We encourage all families to take their child to the potty and to wash hands before entering the classroom for the day. While teachers will give children two scheduled potty breaks during the camp day and take children to the potty when they ask to go, teachers will not repeatedly prompt children if they need to go or be able to monitor each individual child for non-verbal cues as the day’s activities proceed. There are also many more distractions at camp with lots of other campers, new toys, and fun activities such that a less confident potty-trained child may have trouble maintaining dryness/cleanliness. These factors should all be evaluated to assess children for potty-training success at DCP’s Preschool Camp.

A child will be removed from the Preschool Camp environment as soon as a potty accident is discovered. If it is a wet accident, teachers will help the child change into dry clothes. The wet clothes will be sent home with the student at the end of the morning and parents will be notified. If it is more than a wet accident and requires cleaning beyond a change of clothes, DCP will contact the primary caregiver(s) to come and pick-up the child in the main office. The Preschool Camp room is not outfitted with a changing table nor are teachers able to leave the class for a lengthy cleaning that is required for this type of potty accident. When a child has more than one wet accident at DCP, the Director will determine whether or not a child can return to the preschool camp. No tuition refunds will be granted.

Please note that this policy is not in place to shame or punish a child or inconvenience primary caregiver(s). Rather, cleaning accidents in a child care facility setting is time consuming, and this time that teachers spend attending to and cleaning accidents is time that they are not spending interacting with children and facilitating the camp day in a fun and safe manner. This policy is intended to ensure the safety and happiness of children and staff at Preschool Camp. Thanks for your understanding!