**Toileting-Transition From Toddler to Primary**

Unlike the toddler program, primary classrooms are not set up to support/teacher beginning toileting skills.  Skills involve bladder and bowel control and clothing management and communications.

Bathrooms are some distance from most activities and are standard in that they will accommodate only one person at a time and have doors that close.  The student/teacher ratio is excellent but too high to allow for one teacher to spend twenty or thirty minutes assisting one student who has had an accident because the teacher cannot be actively involved in the instruction, help or monitoring of other students during this time. Students who enter this program should be “fully” trained.  Central requires that students who enter the primary classroom be able to:

* Be willing and able to comply with a teacher’s request to try and empty their bladders before transitions.
* Control their bowls and bladder adequately enough to wake dry and clean after a two hour nap.
* Indicate to a teacher that they need to go to the bathroom or that they have had an accident
* Remove their clothing independently
* Clean as best as possible
* Put clean clothing on independently
* Put wet/soiled clothing into a plastic bag and then into their canvas bag.

Teachers help support young students and keep toileting anxieties low by:

* Providing reminders before transitions
* Assure students that accidents happen to everyone, even adults
* Provide verbal instructions and support to students after an accident
* Monitor students who are toileting and/or cleaning and changing clothes
* Offering assistance to a child that is fully engaged in the process and working hard to manage this process. Assistance cannot be given to child who is passive and not working hard to manage by themselves.
* Acknowledging a child’s success with this transition.
* Helping a student get their wet clothing home into plastic bags and their canvas bags.
* Reminding students to wash their hands after toileting activities.

Parents can help their child learn strong toileting skills before entering the primary program by:

* Providing their child with very loose fitting clothing that they can manage independently. Tops and bottoms.
* Encouraging/requiring their child to take off their own clothes and put on their own clothes. This takes time and patience but many children are pleased at their independence and gladly comply.
* Providing a towel, mat or small rug to keep this activity limited to a smaller area.
* Teaching your child to clean themselves.
* Helping your child practice putting soiled/wet clothing into plastic bags.
* Label all clothing your child brings into school. Understand that because students are managing their clothing independently, occasionally clothing will go missing.  Please check lost and found in the front bathroom from time to time.

When you pick your child up from school, check their bag for wet/soiled clothing and check your child for cleanliness.  Make certain your child comes to school with several changes of clothes in their bag each day.  Check your child for cleanliness.  Help them perfect this skill if needed.  Remember, students will have accidents.  We understand this.  Your child’s greatest success is dependent on successfully managing clothing, cleaning and communicating as well as adequate bowl and bladder control skills.