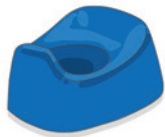


Thinking about wee
and poo now you've
reached the age of



Hints & tips for potty training...



Children are ready at different ages but usually between 2 and 2½ is a good time to get going.

Get ready! Choose a potty with your child. Keep it in the bathroom and start sitting your child on it for short intervals to get used to it.

If your bathroom is upstairs keep a potty downstairs too so they don't have so far to go.

Have a bag of small toys in the bathroom ready to keep your child amused while they sit.

Children with special needs can often be potty trained too. Go to www.promocon.co.uk, look in their publications section and read their leaflet *Toilet Training Children with Special Needs*.

Make sure your child has a healthy bladder and bowels to maximise the chance of success... turn over to find out more...

Learn to spot constipation and know what to do about it... turn over to find out more...

Questions...



- How will you know if your child is ready for potty training?
- How do you plan to start?
- How long should they sit for? How often?
- Where can you get help?

Where to find the answers...

- Go to ***www.eric.org.uk*** - there's lots of useful info on how to get started.
- Or call ERIC on 0845 370 8008 and ask for the leaflet ***ERIC's Guide to Potty Training*** to be sent to you, or pick one up from your local Children's Centre.
- Talk to your Health Visitor Team/Community Nursery Nurse or staff at the Children's Centre.

What does 'healthy bladder and bowels' mean?

- Your child is able to wee and poo at regular intervals without pain or discomfort.
- Your child can stay dry for at least an hour between wees, and poos soft poos at least 4 times a week - even if they are still wearing nappies you can check this.
- The most important way to ensure healthy bladder and bowels is to check your child has plenty of fluids - a minimum of 6-8 drinks every day. Choose a suitable cup for their size - about 120-150ml for a two year old.
- The bladder and bowels are closely related - if your child is constipated their tummy may be so full of poo that it makes their bladder misbehave! So, constipation can cause wee problems as well as poo problems.

What should your child drink?



- Water is best. NOTE: If your child wakes for a drink in the night, only offer water.
- 2-3 drinks of milk a day is fine as part of a balanced diet.
- Well diluted fruit juice or squash can be included.
- Encourage your child to drink out of a cup now, especially when sitting down for a meal. Time to say goodbye to baby bottles.

What drinks should they avoid?

- Any drinks containing caffeine - like tea, coffee and cola.
- Sweetened drinks.
- Save fizzy drinks for a treat when they are older.

Don't limit their drinks to help them stay dry... it doesn't work! The bladder needs to be properly filled and emptied to behave properly.

What does healthy poo look like?

1



Looks Like:
Rabbit droppings

2



Looks Like:
Bunch of grapes

3



Looks Like:
Corn on the cob

4



Looks Like:
Sausage

5



Looks Like:
Chicken Nuggets

6



Looks Like:
Porridge

7



Looks Like:
Gravy

Your child should pass soft stools - **Type 4** on the chart - at least four times a week.

If they are passing fewer poos than this, and/or harder poos, they might be constipated...

Leaking runny poo (**Type 7**) can also mean constipation...

...check out the ERIC website or read the leaflet ***ERIC's Guide to Children's Bowel Problems*** for more information.

If you're worried see your GP - your child may need some medicine to help them poo. The sooner the better - don't let it become a long term problem. Some Health Visitors can prescribe medicines too.

Talk to your Health Visitor and/or staff at your local Children's Centre for advice.

Or you can phone the ERIC helpline on **0845 370 8008** - it's currently open every Monday and Wednesday 9.30am - 4.30pm - OR send an email to **helpline@eric.org.uk**

Other useful information:



ERIC's Guide to Children's Bowel Problems

ERIC's Guide to Potty Training

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Contact your Health Visitor/Children's Centre on: