Learning to Use the Potty

The potty is an important part of babies’ and toddlers’ development. Successful, consistent use of the potty is an important childhood achievement—and something to cheer when it happens! Accidents are a natural part of this development. Accepting them with love and encouragement will help your child leave diapers behind forever!

Ideas & Tips

• Help your child recognize that the body signals for when it’s time to go potty. Talking about your own signals helps to show how our bodies tell us that it’s time to go!

• Keep a potty chart and let your child mark a square when they try to use the potty on their own. Give lots of praise when they notice the need and successfully use the potty.

• Spend time with your child while they sit on the potty chair. Read books, sing songs, do rhymes, and otherwise try to make learning to use the potty a fun time for them.

• Events and vacations offer different types of pottying experiences. Talk about the differences and help your child adjust to the changes.

More Books

• How to Pee: Potty Training for Boys; How to Pee: Potty Training for Girls by Todd Spector

• My Big Girl Potty; My Big Boy Potty by Joanna Cole

• Once Upon A Potty: Boy; Once upon a Potty: Girl by Alona Frankel

• Pottytime for Chickies by Janee Trasler

• Time to pee! by Mo Willems

Wash Your Hands

(Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Wash, wash, wash your hands. (scrub palms together)
Make them nice and clean. (continue to scrub palms together)
Rub the bottoms, and the tops, (scrub bottoms and tops of hands)
And fingers in between. (scrub between fingers)

Rhyming Fun

Wash Your Hands

(Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Wash, wash, wash your hands. (scrub palms together)
Make them nice and clean. (continue to scrub palms together)
Rub the bottoms, and the tops, (scrub bottoms and tops of hands)
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Get going today!