



# The Toddler Tribune

April 2009

A Honey Bears Publication

by Sarah Rothstein  
well as getting dressed and  
undressed independently.

## Developmental Milestones



### Self Help/ Cognitive Toilet Learning

Many parents have recently asked about toilet learning. Also, several children have shown an interest in the toilet or potty at home. In response to this, we will be bringing a small camping toilet into the classroom for those children who want to try out the toilet. We will ask each child if he or she would like to sit on the potty and if a child does not want to, we will not press the issue. Taking the struggle out of the toilet learning process will better allow the children to learn to listen to what their bodies are telling them and give them the independence to try to use the potty when they are ready. Parents frequently ask what the right age is for toilet learning. It is important to remember that age is not the determining factor in toilet learning- readiness. Children vary in the age at which they are ready to toilet learn. Here is a list of toilet learning readiness signs. This list has been compiled based on several reference articles and books on the subject of toilet learning.

#### Signs for Toilet Learning Readiness

- ☺ The Child demonstrates an interest in toileting habits of others.
- ☺ The child is willing to start the process of toileting.
- ☺ The child is able to tell you when they have made urine or BM in their diaper or pull-up.
- ☺ The child has adequate physical ability; is able to walk to, get up and down from, and flush the toilet, as

- ☺ Patterns forming, for example, longer periods of dryness or waking up dry.
- ☺ Child seeks a private area when needing to empty bladder or bowel.
- ☺ Child verbalizes needs; “I need to use the potty.” Note: The big difference is knowing when a BM is ***happening*** (this occurs first) versus being able to tell that it is ***going to happen*** (this occurs later).
- ☺ Understanding what a toilet does and recognition that it is a cleaner, easier place for elimination.

When these signs appear, the child is letting us know that he or she is ready to begin the toilet learning process. As with most skills that toddlers acquire, toilet learning may regress at times. This could be due to a loss of interest in the matter or changes in their lives or routines. Parents often feel pressured to toilet learn their children. Just remember to let your child be the guide and try not to get discouraged. Be patient and your child will let you know when he or she is ready. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have and let us know if you want us to provide you with some resources on the subject.

#### Dates to Remember:

**Wed., April 8: PAC Meeting 5:30-6:30**

**Monday-Friday April 20-24: Week of the Young Child!**

## The Honey Bears Team

**Sarah, Kathryn, and Jeanne**