

What is toilet independence?

1. When a child is used to wearing cloth underwear all day without frequent daily accidents.
2. When a child independently recognises the need to go to the toilet the majority of the time, and initiates the toilet time.
3. When a child is able to pull their own pants up and down in the toilet with only occasional help.
4. When a child can independently wipe themselves effectively - sometimes with guidance from an adult.
5. When a child has experience of using a toilet (not a potty) and can independently sit down or stand up to 'go'.
6. When a child expresses discomfort that they have had an accident and needs to be changed.

How does ISL enable a culture of toilet independence?

1. The Kindergarten toilets are adjacent to the classrooms.
2. Children are offered regular opportunities to go to the toilet.
3. Children are encouraged to decide for themselves when they need the toilet and are permitted to go at any time.
4. Children are never told that they cannot go to the toilet.
5. For playtime and outdoor learning, children have easy access to toilets.
6. Children are encouraged to manage their own clothing in the toilets (although there is always an adult on hand if needed).
7. Both toilet tissue and baby wipes are on offer for children to wipe themselves.
8. The toilets are a variety of sizes and heights to accommodate children ranging from 2 years old up to 6 years old.
9. All toilets have a step to enable children to reach and sit on the seat independently.
10. All toilet paper dispensers are on a roll and easy to manage.
11. All toilet flushing devices are push-buttons and easy to use.
12. Toilets are cleaned twice during the school day so they are always sanitised and inviting to use.
13. Hand basins are at an appropriate height for Kindergarten children with automatic soap dispensers, an automatic paper towel dispenser and push-button taps.

What happens if a child is struggling with toilet independence?

1. We understand that regression may happen as your child becomes familiar with a new environment/routine and we will work with you and your child as they make the transition to becoming more independent.
2. Children who have regular accidents may be asked to stay at home for a short period of time to focus on becoming independent and may return to school once independence is established. A transition period of half days may be suggested to help the child to succeed.

Why is it important that your child is toilet independent?

1. We are not equipped to have children in nappies or pull ups at school.
2. Children who have multiple accidents a day miss out on vital learning time.
3. Kindergarten classes are equipped with a team of one teacher and one teaching assistant. Children who have regular accidents at school take an adult away from an entire class of students each time they need to be changed.