

Toilet Training Tips

Potty training – what great fun! If you thought you had a lot of laundry before this two year old trend, just wait until you go through an extra three or four outfits a day (not to mention taking the car seat apart a couple of times a week). A few caps full of straight ammonia in car seat and crib sheet loads do wonders to remove the urine smell. While the excitement of getting your little one to wee on a potty can be fun, it sure does create more work. Parents of two or more that spend any time out on the town can probably tell you where just about any restroom is located. I was standing in Pep Boys the other day when my little announced she had to make pee pee. As I turned in a panic knowing I only have about one minute to find the nearest restroom, a gentleman perusing the aisle with his two little ones informed me it was in the front left hand corner of the store. I offered quick thanks as a swept Maggie of the floor and rushed to the restroom with my other two in tow. Our next stop took us to the much-loved Target where it was my five year olds turn to go. Luckily most Targets have restrooms right in the front of the store (they tend to wait until the very last minute before telling me, as if that is a good secret). We visited that facility three more times before finally checking out. Mind you we were in the store for less than an hour! As I started to think about the rest of our day, I tried to remember where are all the bathrooms were in the stores we would visit. Home Depot's is located in the center back. Lowe's is also located in the rear center of the store. Hence, I planned that trip accordingly- bathroom first and then work our way to the registers. The Edison Mall proves to continually be a challenge for those of us in the midst of potty training bliss. I use the word "bliss" because sometimes I think the kids just enjoy seeing what all the bathrooms look like. There has been more than one trip to the potty room when we just sat and unrolled toilet paper for what seemed to be an eternity. For those of you wondering, the anchor stores, such as, JCPenney (back by the beauty salon), Dillard's (they have several), and Burdines seem to be your best bet for clean restrooms. Al-



Maggie, Katelyn and Wyatt take turns training on their portable potts.

though, Gap and Children's place are also great about allowing you to use there restrooms and generally they are really clean. The only other restroom on that side of the mall is the one down the long corridor next to White/Black Market.

However, Casey Green, of Alva, and Kristen O'Halloran, of Fort Myers, may have solved this potty training-mapping problem. They have decided to make their cute little potties mobile. Wyatt Green and Katelyn O'Halloran have been spotted by many locals sitting on their potties in the tailgates of their SUV's. In addition to their toilet training tots, Casey and Kristen have babies under the age of one. Casey informed me that rather than rush around with a double stroller trying to find the nearest watering hole they make sure they put them on the pot at each stop. While many of you may be asking, then what do you do with it? They have solved this problem as well. If an appropriate receptacle is not around, they put it in a diaper and dispose of the diaper. A rather clever concept they have come up with!

Furthermore, they line their car seats with soft changing pads to keep from having to wash the car seats after anticipated accidents.

Encouraging your little one to be a big girl or boy is great! However, don't be in too much of a hurry with this milestone. Potty training is so much easier when your little one is ready. How do you know when they're ready? They will tell you when they have to go without you asking every five minutes, or they decide they don't want to where diapers anymore. Don't get me wrong, we had to bribe my oldest with a "Little People Garage" to finally convince him give it up on the potty. Some kids need a little extra encouragement! Just remember positive reinforcement is the key to mastering any new concept. Expect accidents and give lots of praise for those times they do make it to the throne! ❖



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