



Bowen Island
Montessori School

Supporting Independence in the Washroom

- Children arrive at BIMS with different levels of development in the area of self-care. If it becomes necessary for us to help a child in the washroom, whenever possible we talk through the steps required rather than offering physical assistance.
- Our support and encouragement is given at all times in a gentle, calm, and reassuring manner.
- If your child is experiencing difficulty or anxiety with a particular aspect in the washroom, please let us know so that we can be as supportive as possible.

To encourage independence in this very important area of development, please help your child choose clothes that are easy to remove; for example, elastic-waist pants or easy to manage dresses rather than suspenders, belts, overalls, bodysuits or long dresses. Naturally, mishaps do occur, especially at the beginning of the school year. We handle these situations with sensitivity and understanding. Discretely, a child is given a change of clothes and asked to go the bathroom to change. As needed, a child may be provided physical assistance and to ensure that assistance is provided in a safe and proper manner, the door of the bathroom will be left partially open in order to protect both the child and staff from implications of anything other than aid.

We try to maintain a supply of clean underwear and pants if a change of clothing is necessary. BIMS requests these borrowed clothes be laundered and returned the next day. However, you may wish to provide a set of your child's own clothes to be kept in his/her cubby.

In the greatest interest of your child, if he/she needs more help and emotional comfort than we can offer at the time, we will contact you to come and assist. Please remember that the teachers are caring for a group of up to 16 children. Our objective is to support the personal needs of each individual child, while also attending to the needs of the group as a whole.

Toilet training requires a combined effort from the family and the childcare centre. Please speak with us to set up a plan, if necessary. The child being able to announce that he/she needs to use the washroom, sleep through naps with a dry diaper, and show genuine interest in the process often determines readiness. Our diapering procedure follows all the licensing guidelines to ensure emotional and physical safety standards. During your child's time with us, we will provide gentle reminders and routine in order to support his/her development.