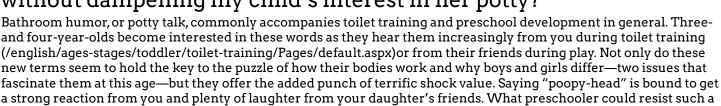


Potty Talk: How Parents Can Discourage the Behavior

My three-year-old daughter's interest in toilet training has come with an unfortunate side effect: potty talk.

While I am happy to see her learning to use her potty with relative ease, I am very tired of hearing the words poopy-head, butt, and pee-pee shouted out in public places, followed by gales of laughter. How can I stop this kind of talk without dampening my child's interest in her potty?



How to Discourage Potty Talk

You can discourage this behavior (/English/family-life/family-dynamics/communication-discipline/Pages/Normal-Child-Behavior.aspx) by taking care not to overreact to it. If your child gets no shocked response, using the words is not as fun. Calmly acknowledge her motive for using such terms ("That word sounds funny to you, huh?"), then redirect her attention ("I know a good joke. Listen to this...").

It is not too soon, also, to start teaching your child that certain behavior is appropriate in some situations but not in others ("Talk about bathroom stuff with Mom and Dad, not with your brother's friends."). As long as you don't expect perfect results right away and don't focus too intensely on this issue, it will pass.

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Back to Top