

Specially for Children – Children with Special Needs

Children with special needs have a physical or intellectual disability, or developmental delay. They may be later than other kids in achieving bladder and bowel control during the day and night. Acquiring bladder and bowel control requires very complex skills. There is a wide age range for day and night control for kids with, and without special needs. The age range for development of bladder and bowel control in kids without special needs is 1.8-4 years for day control and 2-5 years for night control. These skills are often developed at different ages, just like other childhood skills like learning to walk, or talk. Just as kids need practice to walk and talk, they need practice to be dry, and they will have accidents to begin with. Day-time dryness is developed before night time dryness and achieving bladder and bowel control can be both a challenging and rewarding time for the child, and the parents whatever the age it occurs.

Nocturnal enuresis (bedwetting) is not considered a problem in any child until the age of 5 years and night time control may be later in kids with special needs.

DryNites® Pyjama Pants can help you and your child manage their bedwetting. DryNites® Pyjama Pants are trim and absorbent, so they provide discreet, absorbent protection. DryNites® Pyjama Pants are available in a range of pack sizes for children 5-15 years (up to 57 kg) in Medium, Large and Extra Large from leading supermarkets, pharmacies and variety stores.

Skills required for achieving bladder and bowel control¹ :

- is dry for 2 hours between nappy changes.
- can indicate need to go to the toilet – feels sensation in bladder or bowel.
- can 'hang on' for a short time to enable the child to get to the toilet.
- can find the toilet and knows what it is.
- can get to the toilet and pull down clothes and underpants.
- can sit on the toilet – with stool and toilet seat insert so they feel safe.
- can do a wee or poo and then wipe themselves – this is a difficult task.
- can get off the toilet and pull up clothes and underpants.
- can flush the toilet and wash and dry hands.

There are a number of Government Schemes to assist parents of children with special needs in purchasing continence aids, as they may need to use disposable appliances like DryNites® Pyjama Pants for a longer time.

1. One step at a time Continence Foundation of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.