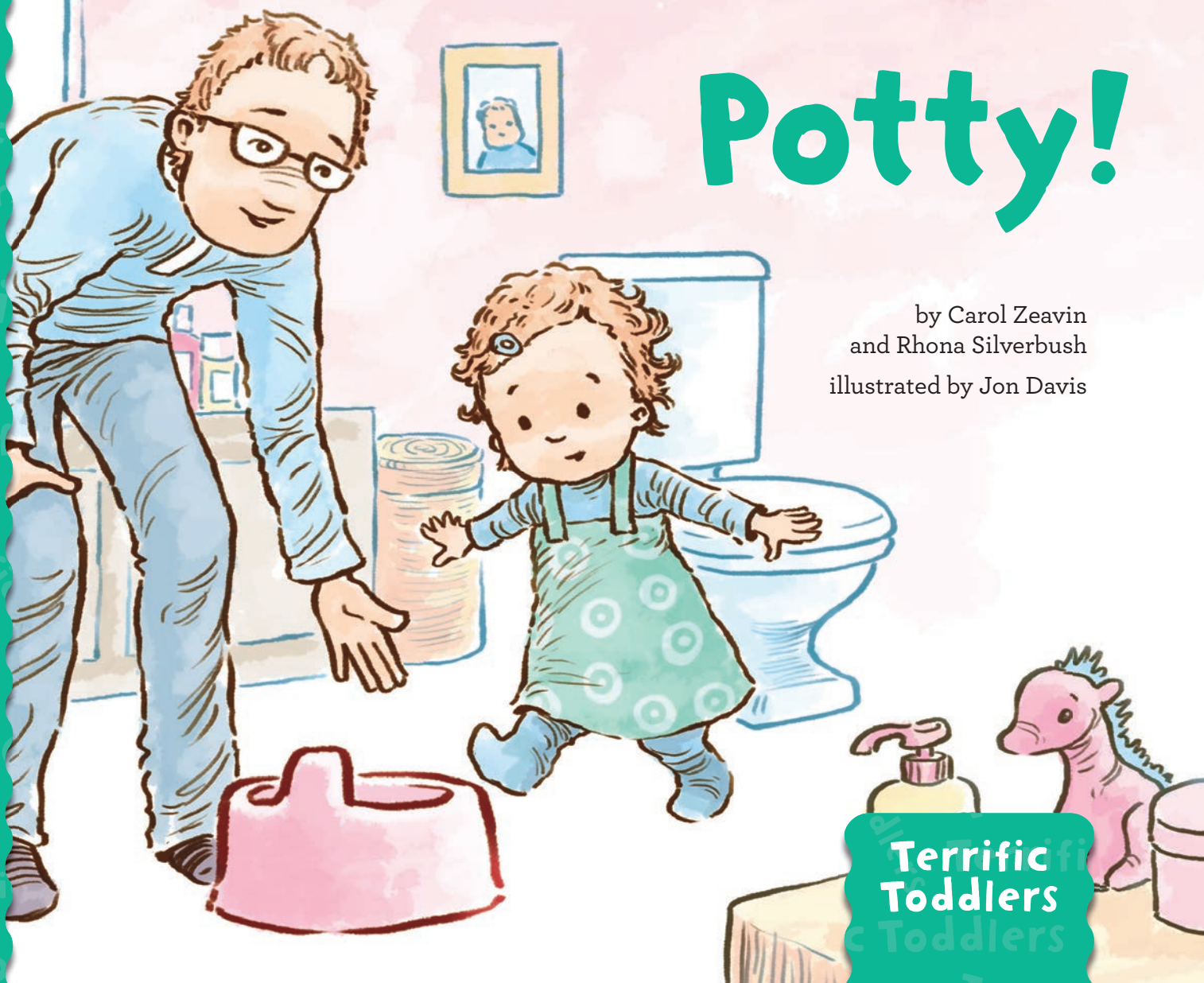


# Potty!

by Carol Zeavin  
and Rhona Silverbush  
illustrated by Jon Davis



**Terrific  
Toddlers**



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With gratitude to my inspiring teachers and mentors  
at Bank Street, Rockefeller, and Barnard—CZ

Dedicated to the inspiration for this series  
(you know who you are!), with infinite love—RS

For Laura and Greta—JD

## More Terrific Toddlers





Sometimes we make pee-pee, sometimes we make poopy.  
Are we ready to use the potty?

JoJo does NOT want to use the potty—  
but she does not like her diaper wet!  
Today, she is squishing some play dough.



Suddenly, she stops.  
“Mommy, Mommy!” she says. “I do pee-pee!”

Mommy says, "OK, let's go change your wet diaper."



JoJo yells, "Take it off! Take it off!"  
She starts to pull her diaper down...



Mommy says, "We take off diapers  
in the bathroom, please!  
I'll help you...."





Kai has fun sitting on his potty—with all of his clothes on!  
Today, he makes a pooppy in his diaper while he sits.



When Kai's done and wiped,  
Daddy puts the pooppy in the toilet.

Kai says, "I flush it."  
He pushes the handle...

Whoosh! goes the water. “AAAH!” Kai yells.

“I know,” Daddy says.

“The water takes away your poopy—but not you!”



Kai waves. “Bye-bye, poopy!”

Jack likes to make pee-pee and poopy in the potty.  
Today, he is reading a book while he sits.



Mommy peeks in.  
“Did something come out?”

Jack stands up and looks.  
“Pee-pee!” he says. “No poopy.”



He sits down again. He reads some more.



He stands up and looks.  
“No poopy, Mommy.”



“That’s OK,” Mommy says. “You tried.”  
Jack nods. “Yup!”



Ava doesn't wear a diaper anymore—  
and she loves her flowered underwear!



Today, she's helping Daddy water the plants.  
All of a sudden, she feels pee-pee coming.  
"Uh-oh!" she says, "Pee-pee!"

“That’s OK,” Daddy says.  
“You’re learning to use the potty.”  
Ava says, “I do potty!!”







We all make pee-pee and poopy.  
And when we're ready, we use the potty!



# Note to Parents and Caregivers

Your child is ready to potty train! Or so you wish.

While the transition from diapers to independence can be very exciting for everyone involved, it can also be truly fraught for parents. We get it. Diapers are expensive, grandparents are nagging, friends' children are sporting superhero underwear. You'd love to get to the other side—that side where your child uses the toilet independently. But the bridge from here to there seems long and rickety...

This process will be easier if you understand that your child is the one to build the bridge! It will also be easier if you understand that your child needs two things to be in place:

**Physical readiness:** Children need to be able to feel the sensations of needing to pee and poop, understand what the sensations mean, and control the muscles that hold in and let go. This takes neurological development that happens at different rates for different children (you can assure Grandma that it has absolutely nothing to do with intelligence!).

**Emotional readiness:** At the same time, children need to be able to understand what's expected of them, and to follow step-by-step instructions. Sometimes, they must also overcome fears—of the elimination process itself (what other parts of me will fall out?!), or of the toilet and its loud flush, the gush of water that could suck them down along with their poop.

**Some ways you will know their bridge-building has begun:**

- They seek out squishy substances like play dough and mud;
- They find a way to tell you they are noticing full or wet diapers;
- They become obsessively curious about others' toileting habits;

- They stay dry longer;
- They start refusing diapers.

**To help them build their bridge...**

**...it's best not to:**

- Compare your child with others;
- Equate potty training with maturity;
- Punish accidents—your child really can't help it;
- Overdo prizes—their own accomplishment is their biggest reward.

**...and it's best to:**

- Stay calm and matter-of-fact;
- Be prepared for accidents;
- Expect variation—sometimes something will come out, sometimes it won't... two steps forward, one step back...

They may shout “No!” a lot, but your children do actually want your approval, and they know you want them to use the potty. Eventually they will gain mastery over their bodily functions, and they will be as pleased and proud as you are. Remember—barring a disability that prevents it, every person becomes potty-trained. Your child will, too!

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*We love toddler pronunciation! And we know toddlers are not yet able to pronounce the complicated consonants in “flush.” We just didn’t want to annoy you with an approximated spelling of most toddlers’ best efforts (“I f’uth it,” “I fwuss it”). So, don’t worry if your toddler can’t pronounce “flush” the way Kai does—Kai can’t, either!*

*A note about the terms “pee-pee” and “poopy”: We’ve chosen these terms, because that’s what we’ve used with the toddlers in our own lives, but please feel free to substitute whichever terms your toddler is familiar with while enjoying the book together.*



We all use the bathroom when we're ready! *Potty!* is a book for toddlers about the many stages of potty training that kids can be in.

Includes more information about supporting toddlers as they build the bridge to potty training.

## Read all the Terrific Toddlers books!



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