

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wednesday March 05 2025, 12.01am, The Times

Later potty training

Sir, Further to your report “[Why has toilet training gone to pot?](https://www.thetimes.com/article/scientists-on-a-mission-to-speed-up-plodding-rate-of-potty-training-8bz2kbqks)” (Mar 4), the age at which toilet training starts has been increasing for more than half a century. Historic data suggests that although children started training at different ages, the age at which they attained reliable continence was fairly constant at about two and a half years. I have always attributed this to the fact that in the days of Terry nappies and plastic or wooden flooring and lots of outdoor play, cleaning the floor, or leaving it to nature, was easier than cleaning nappies. Today, with disposable nappies, carpeted floors and less outdoor play, changing a nappy is rather easier than cleaning a carpet. Hence parents delay toilet training until they are confident that it will be rapidly successful.  
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