

Toilets for little kids

If there aren't enough toilets, the first people to get pushed out of the way at busy times are the little kids. It's hard for kids to wait, and if the toilets aren't near your home, it's hard for the little ones to go that far when they need to go. What's more, the PMC toilets are just too big and intimidating for the littlest kids.



Opening the kid's toilet at Kirkat Wadi

All this means that it's become necessary for children to defecate on the ground in their settlements, often near the toilets. Other little kids are popped on a little square of old newspaper to poo, and this is wrapped up and dumped with the garbage. Either way is unhygienic and undignified, and contributes to the degraded environment in a slum.

A small-scale 'baby channel' next to the ladies' means that the kids have a special place to use where their mothers can keep an eye on them, and they aren't forced to squat outside anymore. This also helps keep the whole area cleaner. So all the SA-built toilets in the current

project have a small platform for the under-fives to use.

The design of the baby channel ensures that it's friendly to the little ones.

It has to be a shallow channel, so that if they topple over and fall in, they can't hurt themselves. It's also essential that the baby channel is in or next to the ladies' toilets. That way, the women who bring the kids can keep an eye on them, and there's no threat from the inevitable drunk staggering into the gents'.

The channel has a good enough slope, so that when it's flushed with a jug of water by the women, everything flows away easily.

Incorporating a special toilet for the littlest members of the community is a response to a real need identified by women slum dwellers, and part of our aim to include the needs of everyone in the designs.



The official opening of the mini toilet at Bharat Nagar