



Making the Home to School Connection
Preparing you and your child for a successful school experience...




 Presentation developed by LAUSD Psychological Services

A Look Ahead... Objectives

- Establishing Routines in Your Home
- School Attendance
- Staying Connected
- Parent Participation

Establishing Routines in Your Home



ACTIVITY: What works for you?

All families have a pattern of behavior that describes their process for getting up and out of the house in the morning

- Think of what needs to be accomplished in the morning
- What routines you have in place to meet those needs
- Think of the challenges you face in the morning

Establishing Routines in Your Home

Morning needs may include:

- Getting up and out of bed
- Eating Breakfast
- Getting dressed
- Preparing materials
- Getting to School



Establishing Routines in Your Home

Potential Challenges:

- Limited time to get ready in the morning
- Illness
- Multiple children and drop-offs in the morning
- Parents who work outside of the home
- Transportation challenges (i.e. car troubles)
- Unexpected delays/emergencies
 - Home (plumbing problems, etc.)
 - Heavy traffic/accidents, etc.

Establishing Routines in Your Home

How to maximize your time in the morning:

- Nighttime preparation
- Consistent bedtime
- Turn off all electrical devices 30 minutes before bedtime



Establishing Routines in Your Home

Considerations for establishing morning routines:

- Include your child when establishing the morning routine
- Be flexible and allow for the unexpected
- Be willing to revise your schedule

Establishing Routines in Your Home

The importance of establishing a morning routine:

- Sets a positive tone for the morning/day
- Reduces morning stress
- Expectations are clear and predictable
- Promotes independence
- Routines are familiar

American Academy of Pediatrics

Establishing Routines in Your Home

How to maximize your time in the morning during the weekdays? :

- Prepare at night for the next day
- Make the morning routines of waking up in the morning be positive and cheerful
- Make time for breakfast
- Leave your child with a positive feeling as he/she leaves for school

American Academy of Pediatrics

Establishing Routines in Your Home

Developing good routines for homework:

- Designate a consistent time and place
- Keep all school materials and supplies close by
- Provide enthusiasm and occasional assistance

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School Attendance



School Attendance

Some facts about school attendance:

- An estimated 5 -7.5 million students in the United States miss approximately one month of school per year.
- By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is a key indicator of high school dropouts.
- When students improve their attendance rate, they improve their academic outlook and increase the probability of graduating high school.

www.attendanceworks.org

School Attendance

LAUSD Attendance Expectations



Information obtained from the Offices of Student Health and Human Service, March 2013

School Attendance

General Information:

- Know your child's school calendar
- Post your child's school calendar in a visible location
- Familiarize yourself with your child's school attendance policies and procedures

School Attendance

Addressing Tardiness:

- Allow ample time to get to school
- Minimize stress



School Attendance

Addressing Absences:

- Encourage consistent school attendance and limit absences
- Students miss out on important opportunities for learning and social interaction when they are not at school
- Avoid making school absences a pleasurable experience for your child

School Attendance

Additional ways of addressing absences:

- Schedule doctor's appointments, family vacations, outings, etc. around your child's school calendar/schedule
- Communicate absences to the school/classroom teacher so that work can be sent home or picked up

School Attendance

School Dismissal

- Communicate with your child
- Research after school programs
- Plan for the unexpected

School Attendance

Other Considerations:

- Early pick-up should be utilized only when necessary
- If your child has an appointment during the school day, return them to school whenever possible
- Absences due to inappropriate behavior (suspension) should not be pleasurable


Staying Connected



ACTIVITY:
How well do you know your child's school?

Name your child's:

- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Classroom Teacher/Special Education Teacher
- Room Number
- Office Secretaries
- Yard Supervisors
- Librarian
- School Psychologist
- Parent in your child's class
- Cafeteria Manager
- Plant Manager



How to Stay Connected...

- Introductions
- Identify preferred method of communication
- Make use of available technology
- Introduce yourself to a parent in your child's class

Promoting Open Lines of Communication

- Stressors which may impact your child's school experience include:
 - Birth
 - Death
 - Divorce
 - Illness
 - Change in or loss of a job
 - Incarceration
 - Deportation
 - Change in family structure
- Consider informing a trusted staff member who can support your child at school

Using Available Technology



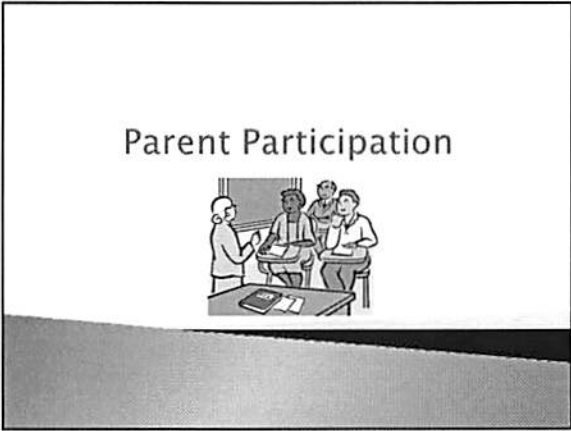
www.lausd.net

Communicating Concerns

- If a conflict arises, familiarize yourself with the reporting procedures the school has in place
- Identify the appropriate school personnel to provide assistance and guidance
- Never approach other children or parents directly
- Encourage your child to solve their own problems, whenever possible
- Listen to your child and use your better judgment

Promoting Communication with Your Child

- Set aside some time each day to speak with your child and show interest in their day
- Ask open-ended questions
 - How was your day at school today?
 - What was your favorite part of the day?
 - What did you learn at school today?
 - How can we make tomorrow a better day?



**Parent Participation:
Getting Involved**

There are a number of ways you can participate in your child's education such as:

- Your physical presence and attendance at school functions
- Volunteering your time at school
- Volunteering to assist with preparation of materials from home
- Serving as a chaperone on a fieldtrip

**Parent Participation:
Getting Involved**

Parent Organizations/Opportunities for Parent Involvement Include:

- Parent Center
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- English Learner Advisory Committee(ELAC)
- School Site Council(SSC)
- Visit www.families.lausd.net for more information on ways you can get involved

On some occasions, schools will provide refreshments, translation and/or childcare in order to promote parent involvement.

**Parent Participation:
Getting Involved**

- Open House
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- School Performances
- Award Assemblies



Parent Teacher Conferences

- Communicate your availability
- Ask for translation
- Come prepared with questions
- Include your child in the process



Prevention and Intervention

How parents can support the prevention and intervention process:

- Promote good school attendance
- Support homework completion
- Encourage healthy sleeping and eating habits
- Provide opportunities for academic growth
- Maintain ongoing communication with your child's teacher



Prevention and Intervention

Supports at School:

- Coordination of Services Team (COST) **
- Language Appraisal Team (LAT) **
- Student Success Team (SST) **
- School-based Intervention Programs **

*** In the near future, these teams will be combined*

Objectives Review



- Learn how to establish routines in your home
- Understand the importance of school attendance
- Know how to stay connected and maintain open lines of communication
- Identify ways to participate in your child's education

Questions/Discussion

