

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL:
BUILD THE HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE

*Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and about themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they know right away that going to school **on time, every day** is important. Good attendance is an important skill that will help children do well in high school, college and a job.*



Did you know?

- ✓ Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to **fall behind** in school.
- ✓ Missing 10 percent or about 18 days of the school year in kindergarten can **lower achievement** in 1st grade and, for some students, through 5th grade.
- ✓ Students can still **fall behind** if they keep missing just a day or two every few weeks.
- ✓ Tardiness in the early grades can predict **poor attendance** later.
- ✓ Absences/tardies can affect whole classrooms if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children **catch up**.
- ✓ Schools **lose money** for educational programs because funding is based on attendance.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Chronic Absence
15+ or more Days

Warning Signs
8 to 14 days

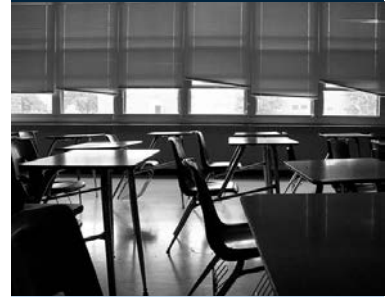
OK Attendance
7 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume an 180-day school year

What can you do?

- ✓ Set a regular **bed time** and morning routine.
- ✓ Lay out **clothes** and pack **backpacks** the night before.
- ✓ Find out what day school starts and make sure children have the **required shots**.
- ✓ **Introduce** your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts to help them transition.
- ✓ Don't let children stay home unless they are **truly sick**. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- ✓ If your children seem anxious about going to school, **talk** to teachers, school counselors or even other parents to figure out how to make them feel comfortable and excited about school.
- ✓ Develop **back-up plans** for getting to school if something comes up. Call on another family member, neighbor or parent.
- ✓ Don't plan **medical or dental** appointments during the school day.
- ✓ **Avoid extended trips** when school is in session.
- ✓ **Reach out for help** if you have problems with transportation, housing, jobs or your health. School officials, afterschool providers, community agencies can help.

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For more tools and
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www.attendanceworks.org/tools/for-parents/