



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

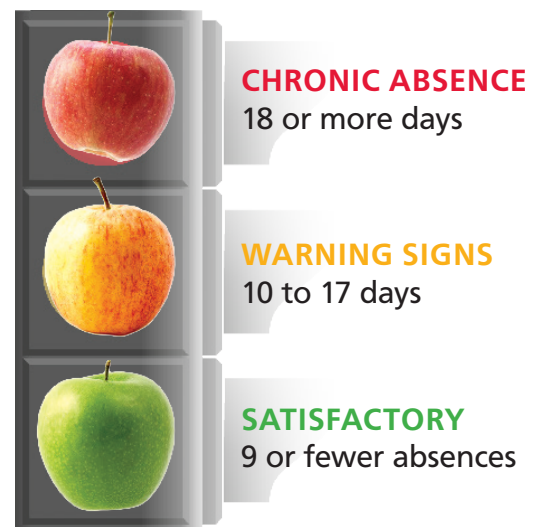
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN 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 your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is 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 child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org

Did you know?

30 million

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Children from professional families have heard 30 million more words by the time they are three years old than those from families in poverty.

4x

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Students who are not proficient readers by 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

1/2

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In 2015-16, less than 1/2 of MI 3rd Graders scored at or above proficiency on the 3rd Grade state ELA assessment.

85-90%


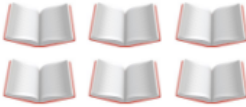

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For 85-90% of poor readers, intervention and support programs implemented before 3rd grade can increase reading skills to average grade levels.

85%

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Children spend 15% of their lives from age five to age 16 in school and 85% with families parents and communities.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A reads:	Student B reads:	Student C reads:
➤ 20 minutes per day	➤ 5 minutes per day	➤ 1 minute per day
= 3,600 minutes per school year	= 900 minutes per school year	= 180 minutes per school year
= 1,800,000 words per year	= 282,000 words per year	= 8,000 words per year
		
= Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests	= Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests	= Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests
Nagy & Herman, 1987		
If a student starts reading for 20 minutes per night at home in Kindergarten, by the end of 6h grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3 school days. This gap in reading experience and resulting vocabulary knowledge adds up across time.		
Want to be a better reader? Just Read.		