

# Be Here. Get There.



## 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?

- Absences add up! Missing just two days per month means a child has missed 10% of the school year.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school matters. Students are considered excessively absent if they miss 38 or more hours of school in a month.
- 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 their teachers and classmates before school starts to help them transition.
- Don't let your child 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 child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors or other parents for advice on how to make them 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?



#### CHRONIC ABSENCE

65 hours of school\*

#### WARNING SIGNS

30 hours of school\*

#### SATISFACTORY

Tardy or absent less than 30 hours per school year

\* excused or unexcused

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

For more on school readiness, visit  
[attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org).



PREPARING STUDENTS  
**FOR LIFE**

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