

Make attending school a priority for your child

Your child's teachers will do their best to help your child learn and succeed in school. But there's one thing that only you can do—get her to school every day.

Children who don't attend school regularly fall behind and score lower on tests. They can also have a hard time making and keeping friends—especially in elementary school.

How often a child is absent in elementary school sets a pattern for absences in later school years. Lots of absences often lead to students dropping out of school completely.

Let your child and her teacher know that you take attendance seriously:

- Tell your child how important school is. Attending school is her job and it is important that she arrive on time every day.
- Discuss the consequences of missing school: needing to do make-up work, missing friends, not understanding.
- Make appointments during non-school hours.
- Schedule vacations when school is not in session.
- Keep your child home from school only if she is sick or there is a family emergency.
- Keep track of your child's absences. Look for any patterns that need to be addressed.
- Talk to the teacher or the school counselor if your child regularly doesn't want to go to school.

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